

Commission clears Haddad of killing

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli judicial commission investigating the Beirut massacre of Palestinians Sunday cleared right-wing Lebanese militia leader Saad Haddad and his men of any involvement in the killings. Major Haddad's militia is armed and financed by Israel and operates in South Lebanon. Same foreign press reports published after the September massacre said his men had taken part. The commission said in a statement published Sunday night that it had not heard any evidence that Maj. Haddad's forces had been among the killers. It was replying to a letter from Maj. Haddad requesting the opportunity to present new evidence to the inquiry. He also asked to see testimony presented by other witnesses and to cross-examine them.



Sectarian clashes erupt in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Christian and Druze militiamen clashed again Sunday in the mountains southeast of Beirut, state-run Beirut Radio reported. It said Sunday's fighting, the latest in a series of sectarian clashes in the area in recent weeks, was between the Druze village of Aitah and the predominantly Christian village of Souk Al-Gharb. Security sources said there were casualties but they had no details. The fighting between the traditionally feuding communities started when the Israeli army invaded the mountains in June and allowed rightist Christian militiamen to move into areas that had for years been under the control of Druze militia. Tension intensified after Druze leader Walid Jumblatt was nearly killed by a car bomb in Beirut last Wednesday.

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New Zealand may buy crude oil from Egypt

CAIRO (R) — New Zealand's minister of foreign affairs and overseas trade, Warren Cooper, said in talks with President Hosni Mubarak Sunday that his country may be interested in buying Egyptian crude oil. Mr. Cooper told reporters his one-hour meeting with the Egyptian leader dealt with promoting trade relations between the two countries. The New Zealand minister said he told Mr. Mubarak and Egyptian officials that "if trade developed, New Zealand would be interested in the purchase of Egyptian crude oil." Egypt's Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who was at the meeting, said Mr. Cooper extended an invitation for Mr. Mubarak to visit New Zealand.

Falkland veterans disrupt Argentinian military ceremony

BUENOS AIRES (R) — About 300 former Argentine conscripts who fought in the Falkland (Malvinas) Islands campaign disrupted a military ceremony Saturday near Buenos Aires in protest against treatment by officers during the conflict. The protesters were among 2,500 ex-combatants of the 10th Infantry Brigade at the memorial ceremony in La Plata, which was presided over by the head of the Buenos Aires-based First Army Command, Gen. Juan Carlos Trimarc. Press reports Sunday of the incident said the protesters laid down and banged their fists on the ground, shouting abuse and whistling whenever a speaker mentioned a military institution. They also shouted slogans against Argentina's military government, including "military dictatorship is going to end." At one point, the protesters said, an enraged officer drew his gun on one protester, but did not fire. The demonstrators heaped insults on the officer until he was led away by colleagues.

Jobert, Yamani hold talks

BAHRAIN (R) — French Foreign Trade Minister Michel Jobert had talks with Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani in Riyadh Sunday, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. The agency gave no details of their discussions. But a French Foreign Trade Ministry spokesman said in Paris before the minister left that the talks would centre on renegotiation of an eight-year-old oil contract expiring this month. Under the agreement, France has been importing 12 million tonnes of Saudi crude oil a year. Industry sources in Paris said a new accord was likely to halve that to six million tonnes a year.

Vietnam denies using chemical weapons

BANGKOK (R) — Vietnam Sunday denounced as "worn-out slander" United States charges that chemical warfare was being used against anti-Communists in Laos, Kampuchea and Afghanistan, the Vietnam News Agency (VNA) reported. An article in the official Communist Party daily Nhan Dan rejected a U.S. State Department report, which was issued this week and said the U.S. had proof Soviet troops were using mycotoxins in Afghanistan. The State Department report also said Vietnamese and Lao troops, under direct Soviet supervision, had used "lethal and incapacitating" chemical agents and toxins against resistance forces.

Iran condemns U.S. military exercises in Oman

LONDON (R) — An Iranian official has condemned U.S. military exercises that began in the Gulf state of Oman this weekend, Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The radio, monitored in London, quoted an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying the U.S. manoeuvres in Oman "reveal America's evil intention to embark on direct military intervention in the region."

China says world waiting for move by U.S., Israel

Hussein, Arab delegation to start Peking talks today

PEKING (Agencies) — Arab League seven-member delegation led by His Majesty King Hussein is due to hold talks with Chinese leaders here Monday on Middle East issues. The delegation which arrived in the Chinese capital on Sunday will outline in particular an Arab peace plan adopted by the Fez Arab summit in September.

King Hussein is accompanied by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Tunisia as well as a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi.

The delegation, which was accorded an official welcome by the Chinese hosts headed by Foreign Minister Wu Zueqian, is expected to outline to the Chinese leaders the Arab peace plan which calls for an independent Palestinian state to be set up in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

King Hussein was quoted as saying in Islamabad where he made a stopover en route from Moscow to Peking that the Arab initiative "provided a firm basis for a just peace in the Middle East."

"We seek justice which is a foundation for peace, and we hope we can attain it," the King said.

He ruled out any compromise on the plan saying "the Arab World is committed to it and would continue to stand by it."

King Hussein said "in the next few days when the picture of the Fez proposals are clear, the Arab leaders will have a chance to meet and decide on the next step."

King Hussein who had met with President Zia-ul-Haq to discuss the Middle East issue took the opportunity to laud Pakistan for its firm stand and support for just Arab causes. "Pakistan and the Arabs have always been partners, brothers, and friends and will remain so forever," the King said.

Meanwhile, the Chinese press Sunday welcomed the Arab League's delegation and said the world was now watching for a move by Israel and the United States.

A commentary in the Official New China News Agency said China was receiving with open

arms a seven-member Arab League delegation led by King Hussein which arrived in Peking Sunday on its tour of U.N. Security Council permanent members.

The agency monitored in Hong Kong said the peace plan drawn up at the league's summit meeting in Morocco last September constituted "the basis for a fair and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East problem."

"The whole question is now left to the behaviour of Israel and its patron on whom the eyes of the public are fixed," it said.

"The root cause of the protracted Middle East trouble and unrest has been the unbridled external expansion and aggression of Israel under U.S. aegis."

It said that although there seemed to have been some change in the U.S. stance on the Middle East in recent months, the Reagan administration still refused to admit that "Israel has committed flagrant acts of aggression abroad."

The U.S. also refused to recognise the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, it added.

The agency also said it was regrettable that the delegation had been unable to visit Britain because of London's refusal to receive the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative among its members.

Israel fears Shultz adopting tougher policy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Arguments over American aid have fuelled Israeli fears that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was adopting a tougher policy towards Israel.

Briefing reporters Sunday after a cabinet meeting, a senior Israeli official said the aid row was the latest signal that Mr. Shultz was taking a harder line than his predecessor, Alexander Haig.

Israeli leaders have accused

Washington of breaking a pledge never to use aid as a political lever.

Last week, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee voted to increase aid to Israel, despite heavy opposition from the White House and the State Department.

The Reagan administration said it feared the increase might jeopardise Middle East peace efforts by appearing to endorse and reward Israel's policies.

Israeli Cabinet Secretary Dan

Meridor told reporters that ministers did not hold a full discussion on the issue Sunday, but he spoke of them being "a bit astonished" that Washington had used political arguments against increasing aid.

"The Americans have said many times that the political position of Israel will not be connected with aid... this is the first time they have done this," Mr. Meridor added.

Rome seeks 3rd Bulgarian

ROME (R) — A Rome magistrate investigating the attack on Pope John Paul has asked the Foreign Ministry to withdraw the diplomatic status of a third Bulgarian he suspects of involvement in the shooting, judicial sources said Sunday.

The diplomatic privileges of Teodorov Ayvazov, a cashier at the Bulgarian embassy who left Italy a month ago, prevent judge Mario Martella from issuing a warrant for his arrest.

An embassy spokesman said he had not heard of the request. He said Mr. Ayvazov was not a member of the diplomatic corps but had certain diplomatic privileges as an embassy employee.

No Foreign Ministry officials were available to comment on Judge Martella's request.

Bulgarian Airline official Sergey Antonov was arrested last month for suspected complicity in the attack on the Pope in St. Peter's Square in May last year.

A warrant has been issued for a second Bulgarian, Vassilev Kolev, who dealt with military affairs at the embassy but lost his diplomatic status when he left Italy last summer.

The judicial sources said Mr. Ayvazov keeps his diplomatic privileges as he had not officially left Italy, even though he is out of the country.

Turkish citizen Mehmet Ali Agca, serving a life sentence here for shooting the Pope, identified the suspected Bulgarians in talks with Judge Martella.

Relations between Italy and Bulgaria have been increasingly strained since Mr. Antonov's arrest. Bulgarian embassy officials have described the charges as totally unfounded.

Last week Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister Liuben Gotzev met the Italian ambassador and mentioned the case of Mr. Antonov and that of two Italians held in Bulgaria on spying charges.

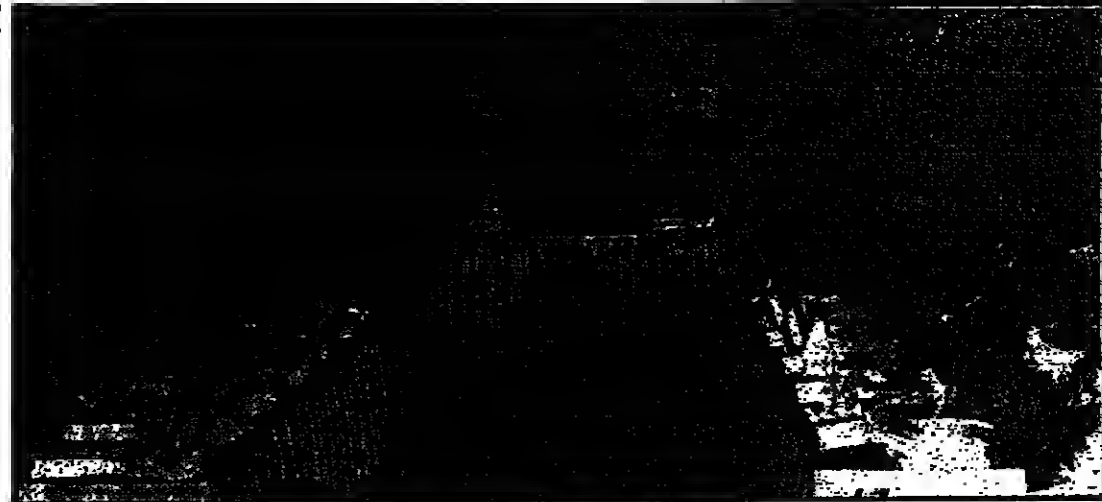
China hails constitution

PEKING (R) — China, hailing its new constitution as an historical landmark, Sunday called on its billion people to use it as a weapon to fight for stability and prosperity.

Official Chinese newspapers said the ratification of the constitution Saturday by China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), was a milestone in the history of the country's legal system.

The People's Daily said it "provides an indispensable legal guarantee for the nation's stability" and termed it "a guarantee for the modernisation programme to build China into a highly civilised, highly democratic, socialist country."

The constitution, marking a return to the rule of law abandoned in the 1966-76 revolution, extends the list of civil rights and duties in the previous 1978 charter.



Council of Arab Economic Unity's 39th meeting opens Sunday in Amman (Petra photo)

Arab economic group opens meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour Sunday urged Arab states to boost their economic cooperation to help overcome various challenges the Arab Nation is facing at present.

The minister was addressing the 39th meeting of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) attended by Arab ministers of economy, finance and trade or their representatives.

Welcoming the ministers in Amman, the minister expressed hope that they will arrive at resolutions and recommendations to the level of challenges confronted by the Arab countries in economic and political fields.

Also addressing the meeting was United Arab Emirates Acting Minister of Economy and Trade Sa'id Al Ghaith who referred to Arab economic integration as the basic element for an overall Arab unity.

The CAEU's 39th meeting is held in the wake of Israel's aggression on the Palestinian and Lebanese people, which brought about adverse effects on Arab economy, Mr. Ghaith said.

"The current situation in the Arab World and Israel's acts of aggression call for urgent and speedy cooperation among Arab states in economic fields," Mr. Ghaith said.

The CAEU's Secretary General Fakhri Qaddouri who addressed the session outlined the council's achievements since its formation in 1978.

He referred in particular to the establishment of a number of federations and joint Arab companies, the adoption of a pan-Arab economic plan for 1985-89 and the preparation of several studies on developing Arab economy and marketing Arab products.

"All these together with the CAEU's seminars and conferences help promote Arab integration and boost Arab economy," Dr. Qaddouri said.

He also voiced the CAEU's appreciation to Jordan for facilitating its activities and helping it implement its programmes.

During the two-day meeting the ministers will review a number of reports and memoranda pertaining to the CAEU's pro-

grammes and an annual report on its administrative and financial position.

The delegates will discuss a report by Dr. Qaddouri on two agreements of cooperation with Latin American countries and Europe and another on cooperation with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Also on the agenda is a programme for implementing a unified Arab customs law, and another for trade exchange among Arab Common Market members states.

Also to be discussed is a memorandum submitted by the Iraqi government on Syria's closure of its borders with Iraq and disrupting the flow of Iraqi crude oil through pipes passing through Syrian territory to the Mediterranean Sea.

The participating ministers represent Jordan, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Sudan, Libya, North Yemen, South Yemen, Kuwait, Mauritania, and Palestine in addition to the CAEU representatives.

PLO team ends 2-day talks in South Yemen

ADEN (R) — Leaders of several Palestinian commando groups, including Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, have ended two days of talks on Palestinian and Arab issues in South Yemen, officials said Sunday.

Others attending the meeting were George Habash, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Nayef Hawatmeh, of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and Talat Yacoub, of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), as well as members of the PLO executive.

South Yemen's semi-official daily October 14 quoted a Palestinian official as saying the meeting dealt with the future programme of the Palestinian movement.

South Yemen President Ali Nasser Mohammad met the commando leaders Sunday and discussed with them developments since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June which led to the evacuation of estimated 8,000 Palestinian commandos from Beirut.

CLARIFICATION

AMMAN — Yasser Abd Rabbo, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee member and the head of its Information Department, Sunday denied telling the Jordan Times the PLO and Jordan had agreed to form a joint negotiating team for any future Middle East peace talks. In fact, what Mr. Abd Rabbo has denied is a Reuters story in which the Jordan Times was misquoted as saying that he said a delegation has been agreed upon. What the PLO official actually said, and the Jordan Times quoted him as saying in an article published on Saturday, Dec. 4, is: The new (Jordanian-Palestinian) committee is still studying Jordanian-Palestinian relations in general but that the stage of "specifics" on the form of the (reported) joint delegation was not yet reached. This may have indicated that Mr. Abd Rabbo had said there was an agreement on the delegation, but he did not actually say there is one, affirming that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. (Full interview on page 2).

Cabinet approves budget draft

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday held a regular session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran to continue reviewing various sections of the 1983 fiscal budget.

Following the four-hour meeting the cabinet declared its approval of the budget draft and referred it to the National Consultative Council for ratification.

Soviet attache leaves Britain 3 days before deadline

LONDON (R) — A Soviet naval attache, ordered out of Britain as a spy, left London for Moscow Sunday saying the allegations against him were lies.

Official British sources said Captain Anatoli Zotov had tried to set up a spy ring here.

He told reporters at Heathrow Airport shortly before leaving: "What has been alleged against me is without foundation and all lies. It is a complete invention."

The captain left three days before the British deadline for his departure expired. He was formally accused of "activities incompatible with his official status" and given until Wednesday to pack his bags.

He arrived at the airport in an embassy car to take a scheduled flight of the Soviet Airline Aeroflot.

Captain Zotov, wearing his

naval uniform with gold-braided cap and medal ribbons, said: "I am proud and honoured to say, as a sailor of the Russian navy, I was glad to represent the Soviet navy. I can only repeat that what has been said against me is fiction."

Asked if he was a spy and if he had organised a spy network, he refused to answer. He added only that his wife Nina had already returned to Moscow.

Captain Zotov was the third suspected Soviet spy expelled from Britain in the last 18 months. Official sources said he had been trying to recruit agents to obtain classified information but was caught before he had harmed British interests.

One of 46 officials of diplomatic rank at the Soviet embassy, he had arrived in Britain in January last year.

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HOME NEWS

NCC delegation visits Iran-Iraq battlefield

MANDALI (Petra) — A delegation from the National Consultative Council (NCC) led by its Speaker Suleiman Arar Sunday visited the battlefield in Mandali region in eastern Iraq.

The delegation members were briefed by the commander of the second Iraqi Army Division on the fighting and developments in the Mandali front facing the Iranian forces.

"The Iraqi forces will never allow the Iranian invaders to achieve their expansionist dreams at the expense of the Arab Nation," he said.

He also paid tribute to the Jordanian stand in support of Iraq and Jordan's assistance to the country in its war with Iran.

In reply, Mr. Arar said that the

"Iraqi forces have achieved big successes which are a source of pride for the Arab Nation." He also reiterated Jordan's "total support for Iraq in its just struggle to defend Arab territory."

Later, Mr. Arar and his delegation visited the Jordanian all-volunteer Yarmouk Force which has been fighting alongside Iraqi forces against Iran and visited the town of Mandali which is situated on the boundary with Iran.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, the Iraqi People's Council Sunday lauded the national stands of His

Majesty King Hussein, government and people.

At a meeting held with the NCC delegation, Iraqi People's Council Speaker Na'im Haddad voiced Iraq's appreciation of Jordan's support for Iraq and asked that the Iraqi people's gratitude be conveyed to King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people.

In a speech to the council, Mr. Arar said in supporting Iraq, Jordan is "performing a national duty towards other Arab states as the Iraqis did when they extended help to Jordan, Palestine and Syria during Israel's acts of aggression."

During the hour-long meeting both sides reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Iraq and the latest developments in the war.

Jordanian-Iraqi industries planned

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq have agreed to conduct feasibility studies for the establishment of joint industrial projects that would manufacture components for a number of industrial firms in Jordan and Iraq, according to Amman Chamber of Industry Director Ali Dajani.

Mr. Dajani said the agreement was reached during a current visit to Baghdad by a delegation representing the Amman Chamber of Industry led by its President Bandar Tabba.

Mr. Dajani, who is currently on a visit to Baghdad to take part in a seminar on a strategy for dev-

elopment the Arab World's human resources, said that agreement was also reached on the need for expanding Jordanian-Iraqi trade exchange. Visits by officials from both countries will be necessary for studying the possibility of increasing the trade between the two sides, Mr. Dajani said.

NCC committee studies Ghor agriculture projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Consultative Council's (NCC) Agricultural Committee Sunday held a meeting chaired by Marwan Al Hmoud and discussed agricultural policy in the Ghor area and agricultural activities there.

The decisions reached in Sunday's meeting will be presented to the NCC's next session.

On the other hand the NCC will not meet on Monday due to the absence of its Speaker Suleiman Arar, who is on visit to Iraq heading an NCC delegation.

Mohammed Abu Tayeb appointed Youth Welfare Corporation chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — A royal decree was issued Sunday appointing Mohammed Jami Abu Tayeb as the Youth Welfare Corporation's director general.

Mr. Tayeb, who resumed the new post on Dec. 1, met Sunday with presidents and treasurers of all sports federations. The meeting aimed at discussing future plans and the corporation's achievements in the last two years.

The newly-appointed director was working as the education minister's consultant for social activities affairs.

John Tanner to retire from UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — John Tanner, the longest serving international staff member of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), retires Dec. 31, 1982 from his post of UNRWA field director.

An architect by profession, Mr. Tanner joined the agency's technical division in 1955, coming from private practice in Kenya. In 1971, he was appointed to his current post in Jordan.

"His 16 years as UNRWA's architect and planning officer spanned a period of intense activity particularly in the educational field, and the Tanner hallmarks of well-constructed, adaptable and simple buildings are recognisable in many of the agency's schools and training centres," a UNRWA spokesman told the Jordan Times.

Randa Habib's CORNER

Greenery -- conspicuous by its absence

It is only when you are flying over Amman that you notice how much we lack green spaces. Though the houses are lovely the use of stone makes the general appearance even colder. Why don't we beautify our capital by individually participating in a nationwide scheme? This would not require much efforts, it would only take each person to plant in his garden trees, real trees and not just plants and green lawns. Now that water is no longer a problem in Amman, we have no more excuses to give.

We are in fact lucky to be living in a country where the climate is mild and where planting trees does not pose a Herculean task. I remember the feeling of esteem and respect I had during one of my visits to the Gulf when I saw trees planted in the capital, especially considering that to plant and maintain trees in such countries requires a lot of money and efforts. One cannot refrain from admiring such an initiative.

We have the privilege of being able to beautify our city without spending large amounts of money. It is an effort that each and every one of us should make in his own surroundings.

Let the person who has a garden already transform it into a real paradise for the enjoyment of all and let the person who lives in an apartment plant on his balcony flowery hedges for the happiness of all. Believe me, the end result would be worth it.

Cooperative team returns after 7-day Cyprus visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a week-long visit to Cyprus.

During the visit the delegation members acquainted themselves with the activities of the cooperative movement in Cyprus which supervises the work of 90 per cent of the country's agricultural sector, the delegation head Ayoub Bataineh said upon returning here.

The delegation members also looked into Cyprus' experience in financing projects, especially in villages and rural regions as well as the country's cooperative bank. Mr. Bataineh was accompanied by eight JCO members.

New Jordan Valley factory ships 1st consignment of tomato paste

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — The first shipment of tomato paste produced by a newly-established tomato paste factory in the Jordan Valley has now been shipped to Iraq, according to Ali Shahtab, one of the factory's engineers.

Mr. Shahtab said that the factory which started production in June can produce 700 tonnes of paste a day.

The JD 1.5 million factory is designed to promote the work of Jordan Valley farmers by purchasing their tomato surpluses and turning them into paste, he said.

Mr. Shahtab said that a similar factory, now being constructed at Ghor Al Safi, south of the Dead Sea, will have a daily production capacity of 300 tonnes.

The two factories have been constructed by the Jordan Valley Authority which had concluded contracts with Iraqi importers to sell them a total of 2,500 tonnes of tomato paste.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solar energy conference continues

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day conference on the use of solar energy for agricultural purposes which opened here Saturday reviewed two working papers at its meeting here Sunday. The first, on the use of irrigation pumps operated by solar power, was submitted by a specialist from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the second, on the use of solar energy in agriculture, was submitted by a Swiss specialist. The delegates were also taken on a tour of several agricultural projects in the Jordan Valley Sunday.

Directors review VTC activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Labour Ministry's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) board of directors reviewed at a meeting here Sunday a report on VTC activities submitted by VTC Director Munzer Al Masri to a seminar on recruiting teachers for technical and vocational schools which was held in Damascus recently. The board meeting, held under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Jawad Al Anani also approved a working paper on hotel training which provides for the VTC to supervise the training of hotel personnel.

Qattan opens work on Aqaba centre

AQABA (Petra) — Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Ibrahim Al Qattan Sunday laid the cornerstone for a shopping centre in Aqaba which is financed by the Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society. The project is expected to cost JD 575,000. In a speech on the occasion the society's president outlined the various projects which the society will be implementing in the city, which mainly include mosques, schools and kindergartens. Attending the ceremony was a visiting Islamic delegation from the Soviet Union whose leader made a speech on the occasion.

University plans technology meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day seminar on plastic technology and its applications and use is due to open at Yarmouk University Liaison Office here Saturday. Representatives from various countries in Western Asia and employed in plastic industries and petrochemicals will take part in the seminar which is organised by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA). The participants will exchange information on modern application of plastics in agriculture and building industries.

Karak to take charge of its water supply

KARAK (Petra) — As of the beginning of 1983 municipal and village councils in Karak Governorate will take charge of water distribution in their regions, a Water Supply Corporation (WSC) spokesman said here Saturday. He said that the WSC has already started installing water meters for 52 main pipes of town and village boundaries in Karak Governorate. However, he said, the WSC will continue to be responsible for the distribution of water to regions which still lack village councils.

Intensified talks strengthen Jordanian-Palestinian ties

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the light of the latest developments in the Middle East and the peace plans outlined by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Fez Arab summit, the Jordanian capital last week witnessed one of the most significant events embodied in Palestinian-Jordanian relations reflected in the formation of a new joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

Last week's talks between Jordanian and Palestinian leaders focused on the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, the different peace proposals for the Middle East and the tasks of the seven-member Arab League committee formed at Fez, Morocco, last September.

These issues and other important subjects were the topics of an exclusive interview by the Jordan Times Thursday with Yasser Abd Rabbo, the head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Information Department and member of the PLO Executive Committee.

"The resolutions of the Palestine National Council stressed the significance and uniqueness of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the importance of developing these relations in order to coordinate efforts for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people," Mr. Abd Rabbo told the Jordan Times.

Future relations

Concerning future Jordanian-Palestinian relations Mr. Abd Rabbo pointed out that the PLO welcomes a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

"The suggested confederation is in accordance with international law definitions of a 'confederation' which implies strong and coordinated relations in all spheres to achieve common goals, but the two countries maintain their independence and are represented separately at the United Nations," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Mr. Abd Rabbo, who is also a member of the newly formed Higher Jordanian-Palestinian Committee asserted that "the

committee aims at the formulation of a joint work plan based on the Fez Arab summit resolutions."

The Fez summit resolutions called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO.

"We work within the framework of the Fez summit resolutions which recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians unlike the Reagan peace proposals. The Palestine Central Council has declared the American initiative inadequate as a basis for a just and durable peace in the area," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

He added that the committee is still studying Jordanian-Palestinian relations in general, but that the stage of "specifics" on the form of a joint delegation was not yet reached.

U.S. plan rejected

The Reagan plan, announced Sept. 1, called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from occupied Arab territories and for a freeze in the building of Israeli settlements, but it left out the PLO.

"The explanatory memorandum of the plan sent to Arab governments clearly says that the PLO should not be a partner in peace negotiations," Mr. Abd Rabbo added.

The Palestinian official cast doubts over the credibility of the U.S. to implement its plan saying, "We have the longest experience with the United States and we are not deceived by its verbal declarations if it is not accompanied by practical measures."

Concerning the possibility of a future Palestinian-American dialogue, Mr. Abd Rabbo pointed out that the PLO rejects the conditions laid down by the U.S.

"The U.S. asks us to recognise the legitimacy of Israel as a precondition to hold talks with the U.S. We find that totally unacceptable."

"It is the Palestinians who are deprived of their legitimate rights and their homeland and not Israel. Moreover, both the U.S. and Israel deny the rights of our people and that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Role in Arab team

Referring to the U.S. refusal last month to receive Khaled Al Hassan, the PLO representative in

the seven-member Arab League team, Mr. Abd Rabbo said that the U.S. had suggested through "an Arab third party" that a Palestinian member, who is not a member of the PLO, replace the organisation's representative in the committee. The PLO refused the suggestion.

"Our acceptance would imply our submission to U.S. claims that the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

He stressed that the PLO regards the seven-member Arab League committee "as the best formula for a peace negotiating team."

PLO and Israeli groups

As for the PLO's relations with Israeli groups opposed to the policies of Prime Minister Menachem Begin's government, Mr. Abd Rabbo indicated the PLO is ready to talk to Israeli groups who recognise the PLO and the rights of the Palestinian people. He also confirmed that a meeting took place between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Meir Filner, the Israeli Communist Party leader in Moscow last month.

Mr. Abd Rabbo denied, however, reports that indicated that Mr. Arafat declared his readiness to hold talks with the Israeli Labour Party.

"We do not distinguish between the Israeli Likud and Labour parties in regard to their position on our people's rights," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.

Arrests in Lebanon

Mr. Abd Rabbo deplored the mass arrests of Palestinians by the Lebanese government.

Reports from Lebanon say that many Palestinians are detained by the Lebanese authorities. They also indicate that the Palestinian institutions are intimidated by the Lebanese army.

"Despite the guarantees and pledges given by the Lebanese government regarding the rights of Palestinians in Lebanon, some government circles are violating these guarantees by harassing the Palestinians in Lebanon. Last week the Lebanese army expropriated all the available medicine from Gaza Hospital in west Beirut and arrested several doctors and nurses. The PLO has conveyed to the Lebanese government its condemnation of such measures and that the PLO possesses proper political means to stop such practices," Mr. Abd Rabbo said.



'Relatively Speaking' gets final shape

AMMAN (J.T.) — This week sees the final frenzied preparations and rehearsals for the Amman Players' latest production, Alan Ayckbourn's "Relatively Speaking." The play, originally written, to quote the author to "make the people laugh when their seaside summer holidays were spoiled by the rain and they came in to the theatre to get dry before trudging back to their landladies" derives its humour from the old never-

failingly funny situation of mistaken identity.

The play opens sanely enough with Greg and Ginny deciding to get married. However, suspecting that Ginny still has an "old flame" lurking in her life, Greg, on the spur of the moment, decides to follow her to what he believes is her family home. Here the confusion begins, but with a lot of fast talking at cross purposes, Greg remains blissfully unaware of who these

people really are.

The Amman Players can be seen unwinding the "tangled web" in their 13th production on Dec. 8, 9, 10 and 11 at the Jordan Theatre, Jabal Luweibdeh, at 8 p.m.

All proceeds will go to aid the Cerebral Palsy Foundation Playgroup. Tickets are for JD 1 each and are available at the theatre door on the night of each performance. MAH

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FEATURES

By Michael Littlejohns

Reuter

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations set aside its usual weighty diet of world problems this week to debate a point of history that raised unusual passions — did Christopher Columbus really discover America?

The question arose when Spain moved a resolution that the United Nations observe 1992 as "the year of the fifth centennial of the discovery of America." Columbus, an Italian, made his epic journey in the service of Queen Isabella of Castile in 1492.

But, asked Ireland's Ambassador Noel Dorr, did not Saint Brendan and his Irish monks sail across the Atlantic in the seventh century?

And surely the Congress of the United States had acknowledged as a fact of history that Leifur Eiriksson, an Icelander of Norwegian descent, made the crossing in the year 1000, Hordur Helgason, the delegate of Iceland, chipped in.

After a heated discussion, the General Assembly agreed to put off a decision till Monday.

Ireland and Iceland were chagrined that the resolution made no mention of those Irish monks and Capt. Eiriksson.

U.N. debate takes a Columbus turn

Meanwhile, African member states questioned the property of the U.N.'s commemorating an event that was followed by the shipment of hundreds of thousands of black slaves to the new world and the murder of a large part of the native population of the Americas.

Diplomatic sources said some African delegates were prepared to express their indignation over the entire enterprise by voting against the resolution.

The commemorative resolution was co-sponsored by Italy and Portugal as well as most of the nations of the hemisphere — including, in rare amity, the United States and Cuba.

During a debate often punctuated by applause — unusual in the U.N. emotion ran high and Latin sensibilities were evidently bruised by the controversy over transatlantic primacy.

Delegates from the Americas ignored Saint Brendan and the Icelandic navigator, having words only for Columbus.

Miguel Albornoz of Ecuador termed the discovery of America — by Columbus — one of the most important events in history.

Jaime de Pinies, the chief Spanish delegate, said the three ships under the Italian navigator's command that arrived in the Caribbean almost five centuries ago represented a collective feat, with Spain a principal party.

Italy's Umberto la Rocca spoke of the beginning of an age of scientific, economic and social progress.

Luis Moreno-Salcedo of the Philippines said Spain's heritage flowed to the new world and into Asia. Only the birth of Jesus was more important than Columbus's landing, he said.

But Mr. Dorr, the Irish delegate, questioned the need to arrange a U.N. event 10 years ahead of the anniversary of Columbus's exploit and for an annual report in the meantime by the secretary-general.

Mr. Helgason of Iceland, introducing an especially sour note for the U.N. majority, remarked that the Spanish-led resolution seemed to applaud colonising — anathema to the world body.

Eiriksson's voyage was so totally ignored, he said, that "we cannot give it our vote." If the assembly adopted the proposal,

members might expect a parallel one for the 1,000th anniversary of Eiriksson's trip 18 years from now, he added.

Mr. De Pinies expressed surprise that the debate had taken this turn. What was sought, he said, was a U.N. celebration of the arrival of Columbus in the new world — he who created churches and universities and brought Spanish culture to the Americas.

What Irish "remnants" were there? Members of the police department of the city of New York, and some leading American politicians, he said, noting the large complement of Irish-Americans among the police and

their influence in politics. Mr. De Pinies objected to remarks made during the debate about colonialism.

Spain was a dominant power of the time — it played a leading role in developing the new world, and was proud of it, he said.

Hernando Dussan of Colombia said: "Spain did not destroy our people. Spain joined them."

Several Latin American delegates spoke of "demagoguery" and insults to the name of Columbus.

Costa Rica's Emilia Castro de Barish said one thing could not be denied: Columbus discovered that the world is round.

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Why the complaining?

IF BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher shares deep concern with other European Community leaders at the slow pace of peace efforts in the Middle East, she certainly intends to do nothing about it.

At the end of two days of European Economic Community (EEC) summit talks in Copenhagen on Saturday, the British prime minister insisted that she would continue refusing to meet representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until it "eschewed violence". Why? We ask. Doesn't Mrs. Thatcher know that because of her unjustified stubborn stance over the PLO an Arab delegation, whose mission had been to talk only about peace, has had to cancel a planned visit to London? How can she lead her voice to complain at the slow pace of peace-making when Britain, under her leadership, does not want to talk to the people most affected by the dispute and address the real issues that need to be solved?

There is really no point in trying to understand why the prime minister does not want to talk directly to the PLO, or let her foreign secretary do so. If it were for American pressure that she would not receive an Arab delegation that included a PLO representative, however, Arabs should not have bothered to think of making the gesture in the first place, simply because their well-known views in Washington would have been communicated to the prime minister in London, far an extra expense, anyway.

For one reason or another, we do not look upon the affair as a diplomatic row between the Arabs and Britain. It is perhaps because we care for what our friends in Britain think that we point out to an inconsistent British policy towards the Palestinian problem at an especially critical stage. Mrs. Thatcher should not just share deep concern at the slow pace of peace efforts in the Middle East; she has a better contribution to make.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A time for China to step into peace efforts

The Arab League seven-member committee, headed by His Majesty King Hussein, started its visit and consultations aimed at presenting the Arab peace plan to the People's Republic of China.

It is only fair to say that China has invariably been among the most vigorous supporters of Palestinian rights, and has always condemned Israel's continued aggression on the Arabs, in words as well as in deeds. China happens to be the only U.N. Security Council member who established no diplomatic, economic or cultural ties with Israel.

The Arabs are imperatively concerned to see China have its say in establishing peace in the Middle East. The fair attitude China has committed itself to, together with the international weight it has by all standards make its participation in the peace process for the region highly desirable.

Such a weight as that enjoyed by China will certainly promote chances for an international pressure on Israel resulting in the withdrawal of its forces from the occupied Arab territories, and acceptance of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The Chinese role in world affairs is universally acknowledged, and the balance of forces on the world scene urges the admittance of such a Chinese part in the Middle East, which is a source of great resentment on the Israeli side. Israel has tirelessly tried to keep China away from the course of events in the region.

The time has come for the big powers to exercise their will in building genuine peace in the region, and the Chinese role is certain to give the peace process a more serious content, as well as speed it up.

Al Dustour: Chinese role and its heavy impact

The Arab League seven-member committee, headed by His Majesty King Hussein, has started talks with the Chinese leadership on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. This happens to be the first high-level Arab delegation to visit the People's Republic of China (PRC), the only Asian permanent member in the United Nations Security Council.

As the United States leads the Western world, and the Soviet Union leads the East, China leads the Third World, and always care to support its causes. China has invariably expressed support for the Arab rights in Palestine, and has regularly demonstrated genuine concern for the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine, and their right to self-determination on their national soil.

The present Arab-Chinese consultations will have great impact on the peace process in the Middle East, as well as on the two sides' relations, historically of a positive nature.

The Arab committee's visit to Peking is an open invitation for this great Asian country to exercise its role and right for helping put an end to Israel's continued aggression against the Arab Nation, and save the region from wide-scale explosions that threaten world peace. China has been kept away from participating in finding a just and durable peace in the region, in spite of the important political role it has in the world arena. Such a participation in a coordinated international effort for establishing peace will incorporate a new positive and effective element, known for having escaped Zionist influence, and maintaining a friendly attitude towards Arab rights and the cause of the Palestinian people.

A follow-up of the outcome of the Arab committee's visit to Peking is of great consequence for rallying world support of Arab just struggle.

Congress looks at defence spending

By Christopher Hanson
 Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's \$160 billion, five-year military spending programme faces a tough challenge in the new session of Congress, where moves are afoot to trim spending on six major projects that have been criticised as costly and unnecessary.

President Reagan made it clear recently that he would not "back down one iota" in his insistence that military spending increase seven per cent annually in real terms until 1986 to counter a Soviet arms building. But congressmen, citing forecasts that the federal deficit could exceed \$200 billion a year for the next several years, now expect a strong effort to scale down the military budget in the current three-week special session.

By one estimate, Congress could save about \$150 billion over several years by cutting the controversial MX nuclear missile, the B-1 nuclear bomber, two giant aircraft carriers, the navy's FA-18 fighter-bomber, the M-1 Abrams battle tank and the army's AH-64 Apache attack helicopter.

"I think we have to cut out about as much as you can cut," Senate Republican majority leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said after a recent meeting with the Republican president. "We're going to have to take a look at defence," he added.

The scrutiny will start in the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee with a proposal to cut \$4.3 billion from the Pentagon budget for continued development of the super-accurate MX missile, whose total estimated cost is around \$30 billion.

Democrats and Republicans predict the debate will be only the opening skirmish on the 1983 and 1984 military budgets, suggesting that the days are over when Mr. Reagan got a virtual blank cheque from Congress on military spending.

Mr. Reagan will face a more hostile Congress in January, when the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives will rise by 26 following Republican losses in this month's congressional elections.

Some congressional aides said privately they fear any of the six "big-ticket" military programmes mentioned as targets for cutbacks were likely to be eliminated entirely, partly because each meant jobs in members' districts. A more likely outcome, according to Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana, was that President Reagan's military buildup would be stretched over a longer period.

The clash between Mr. Reagan and Congress over military spending is likely to centre on the following programmes:

- The MX intercontinental ballistic missile, which faces a serious challenge in the House of Representatives and the Senate after Mr. Reagan's new proposal last week for basing the weapon.
- Under the plan, 100 of the 10-warhead missiles would be based in Wyoming in a tightly-knit "dense pack". In theory, the explosion of the first missile in a surprise Soviet attack would destroy or deflect those following, leaving some MXs to hit back.
- But many critics, including weapons experts, question whether the dense pack plan would actually make the MX less vulnerable to a Soviet first strike.
- The B-1 bomber, estimated like the MX to cost about \$30 billion, which Mr. Reagan says is needed to replace ageing B-52s.
- Opponents in Congress contend the B-1, revived by Mr. Reagan after President Jimmy Carter had

rejected it, would be obsolete by the time it is deployed and say the funds would be better used to speed development of advanced "stealth" bombers.

- Two nuclear-powered aircraft carriers which Mr. Reagan wants to build at a cost of \$20 billion.

Congressional opponents say the carriers could be sunk by relatively inexpensive missiles.

- FA-18 navy jet fighter-bombers, which will cost an estimated \$40 billion to produce.

Recent Pentagon flight tests called into question the performance of the jets and an earlier congressional report concluded the FA-18 would fail in its key task of protecting U.S. fleets against Soviet air attack.

- The M-1, a fast and powerful battle tank which has won praise from the army despite a history of engine trouble and surging costs.

Some critics say the M-1 would perform less well than the older M-60, which is slower but costs only a third as much and is less likely to break down.

- The AH-64 helicopter, which the administration says would be a vital weapon against Soviet tanks because of its ability to fly at night and fire laser-guided missiles.

Some critics have attacked cost increases in the system, now estimated at over \$7 billion, while others say the craft would be easily downed by small arms fire and would disappear from a battlefield within two weeks.



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DE FACTONOMICS

To make the most out of seminars

By T.A. Jaber

Many seminars and conferences at national and regional level have been held in Amman in the last two months. They dealt with important issues such as youth, standardisation, food security, fodder, and productivity. While participants are involved in the presentation of papers, discussions and the formulation of relevant proposals, some outside the meeting halls may question the productivity of seminars, particularly at the national level. The fact that many seminars have taken place in a matter of weeks tend to support their doubt.

To question the productivity of seminars and conferences is not only a matter of attitude nor can it be pushed aside and explained by the lack of, or need for involvement. There is a demand to rationalise such activities. This should include endeavours to make the most

out of costs incurred in the preparation and convening of the seminars as well as the cost for specialists and persons concerned.

It also brings up the necessity of adequate dissemination of information to the public on what is expected from a given seminar as well as its conclusions.

There are many ways to make seminars and similar activities useful and productive not only for the individual but also for the country as a whole. For example:

- Seminars should help to raise and identify new problems continuously facing society. Only in a stagnant society new problems do not emerge in a short time.

The essence of social and economic development is to tackle ever-emerging challenges and constraints. Jordan has experienced rapid dev-

elopment in the last decade. This helped to settle many problems but led to the creation of new ones, for example. The attainment of full employment with the shortage of labour. High national income growth rates with pockets of poverty. Urbanisation with traffic congestions. Rapid industrialisation with a limited market and the availability of investable funds with few managers.

- Through seminars and other meetings, the government can have a close contact with a wide spectrum of society and their varied and sometimes conflicting interests such as industrialists, merchants, workers, financiers, farmers and others.

The government can even test certain proposals prior to their official introduction as policies and measures in certain fields.

— If seminars deal with future developments, they tend to reflect the prospects of a given sector or activity. They should boil down to operational suggestions and conclusions and not remain a mental exercise.

It is, of course, unrealistic to judge the productivity of a seminar by how fast its proposals are implemented. In real life, there is a time lag between a new idea floated in a meeting and its transformation into action. This fact should not frustrate enthusiastic people nor belittle the usefulness of a seminar.

— Seminars should provide an educational platform for all participants. Depending on how orderly and properly they are managed, such gatherings are ruled by agreed-upon procedures. These procedures should maximise the benefit from the interaction of various views and ideas within the limited time usually allocated to these meetings.

Not all seminars are always successful. Their outcome depends upon many factors, most important of which are: The level and competence of the attendants and participants, whether research papers are being prepared in advance, the daily organisation of the meetings, the skill and wisdom of the chairman, the chairman, the reporting on the main outcome of the seminar, adequate publicity and active follow-up.

We also expect that, over time, our seminars will become more and more specialised and will deal with detailed issues. We are already dealing with more specific matters than the overall ones which were discussed ten years ago.

Seminars are productive to the extent that we make them so in our preparations, management and follow-up.

Doubts about the future not shared by World Bank

Hard times hit the Ivory Coast

By Nick Kotch
 Reuters

ABIDJAN — The night-life in the red-light district has been ruined by it, a singer has had a hit with it, and a smart Lebanese trader has even made a profit out of it.

It is "la conjoncture", and the subject dominates conversations in the Ivory Coast capital these days, whether sleek bankers or shoe-shine boys are doing the talking.

In the expressive French spoken in West Africa, the word roughly means "hard times", and it explains the new mood of uncertainty here after an uninterrupted 20-year boom. Flanked by some of the world's most chronically poor nations, the Ivory Coast raced to prosperity after independence in 1960. An open-door economic policy and political stability gave the country the highest growth rate in black Africa.

Now the world recession, and worry about the succession to President Felix Houphouët-Boigny, 77, have upset the balance and raised doubts about the future. The change is apparent in Abidjan's plateau district, where the skyscrapers, the supermarkets and the ubiquitous white faces give many European and American visitors the cosy sensation of not really being in Africa at all.

Building has virtually stopped, and office rents have dipped. The 40-dollar-a-head French restaurants now compete for business from a dwindling number of expense-account diners.

But the contrast with the boom years is sharpest across the polluted lagoon in Treichville, which once had a magnetic appeal throughout west Africa for its hundreds of clubs offering music, dancing, drinking and other less innocent attractions.

Until recently, the sight of a customer splashing out 300,000 cfa francs (\$800) for champagne all round raised few eyebrows in the

top clubs. Cocoa and coffee prices were rocketing and the Ivory Coast was the world's biggest producer of the first commodity, and the third highest of the second. Most middle-class Ivorians invested in plantations and so the profits were widely spread.

Cocoa prices dropped

But cocoa prices have dropped two-thirds since 1977 and the champagne corks have stopped popping. The Treichville clubs are almost deserted most nights, their neon signs illuminating the empty streets and the inactive girls who walk them. "Things used to start getting hot here on Wednesdays, and by Saturday night it was madness," recalled a morose disc jockey in one established club. "Now we're empty till Friday and you can still pick your table on Saturday."

One of the latest radio hits is called "la conjoncture". Sam Mangwana, a master of Zaire's hypnotic music, explains his solution to the crisis: "Instead of electricity, I'll light my house with a palm oil lamp," he sings.

But a back-to-basics remedy will not solve the problems of the Ivory government, which has a rising foreign debt of \$5 billion and now knows offshore oil reserves are more modest than originally thought.

With increasing frequency the dread word "rescheduling" is whispered when the influential gather in Abidjan, in much the same way as news of the plague was passed around centuries ago. Officially, the Ivory Coast has no plans to join other Third World countries in publicly admitting its inability to pay its debts, but financial sources say the first rescheduling in the country's history is a possibility.

"There was so much cash floating around in the seventies that any salesman could persuade them that they really ought to build a few more skyscrapers and

install a first-class telephone network. Now they have to pay the bills," one banker said.

President Houphouët-Boigny, who likes to tell his eight million citizens they should copy the diligent workers of the Far East, has responded to the recession with a string of austerity measures.

Austerity measures

In September he cracked down on people living free in government housing, and told civil servants they would lose their official cars if they continued cruising around Abidjan after working hours.

"Prepare yourselves for further measures," warned the government daily *Fraternité-Matin* last month in a typically sombre editorial.

Happily, the mood is not one of universal despondency. A Lebanese trader is cashing in on the crisis by selling an original *pagne* or clothing material to Ivorian women. It is gaily printed with the legend "anti-conjoncture" and facsimiles of banknotes worth 6,000 cfa francs (\$16) — the same price as the cloth.

"We tell the women they're regretting a bargain," said the trader. "We give them back what they pay." But joking will not convince hard-nosed foreigners to invest in the country, now overtaken by Cameroon as the most attractive prospect in the region after Nigeria, banking sources say. President Houphouët's failure to designate a successor and the dearth of obvious candidates for the job are added disincentives to investors, the sources add.

Nevertheless, the country would have to slide a long way further before times are as bad as in most neighbouring states. World Bank President Alden Clausen was clearly impressed by Abidjan when he visited earlier this year, and he reassured his audience by promising: "We intend to stand by the Ivory Coast."

Strengthening of Leninist legality

Aliyev signals that relaxed times are over for the Soviets

By Richard Balmforth
 Reuters

MOSCOW — The rapid promotion into the Kremlin leadership of a tough-talking regional Communist Party chief, Geidar Aliyev, has led to speculation that a drive against corruption and high-level inertia may be in the offing.

Mr. Aliyev, 59-year-old party boss in the Soviet Muslim Republic of Azerbaijan, was hoisted into the top ranks of the party Politburo and then made a first deputy prime minister in a series of intriguing moves within the Kremlin leadership. Mr. Aliyev's promotion coincided with sharp criticism by new party chief Yuri Andropov of economic managers who were either clinging to old-fashioned methods or simply did not know their job.

Mr. Aliyev, a career security policeman by background and an Azerbaijani by nationality, emerged as a man brought in from the outside to sweep away cobwebs in the Moscow government apparatus and crack the whip over incompetent economic managers.

Mr. Andropov has signalled that the relaxed days of the Brezhnev era are over and hinted that industrial and farm bosses who simply ignore government directives are high on his list of targets.

"He is accustomed to being unpopular.... and the perfect candidate to get things moving"

gets. In a speech last Monday to the party Central Committee, Mr. Andropov rallied against economic managers who paid lip service to government policy but did little to put it into practice.

"Apparently the strength of inertia and adherence to old ways are still at work," he said. "Moreover some people, perhaps, just do not know how to set about doing their job."

The main thing, Mr. Andropov added, "is to speed up work to improve the entire sphere of economic management, including administration, planning and the economic mechanism."

His words were directed at inefficient managers of collectives, state farms, factories and industrial works who benefitted from the long and benevolent rule of Mr. Brezhnev, which ensured job security while largely turning a blind eye to incompetence.

The Soviet economic overlord is in theory Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, 77, a close Brezhnev associate who was appointed to his present position on the resignation of the late Alexei Kosygin in December 1980.

But many Kremlin-watchers incline to the opinion that Mr. Tikhonov may be eased out in the near future to make way for the suave, dark-haired Mr. Aliyev once he has found his feet within the government apparatus.

Diplomats who see Mr. Aliyev as Mr. Andropov's blunt weapon to be wielded against the country's middle management point to his 13-year record in Azerbaijan and the long-standing favour he has enjoyed from Mr. Andropov.

Clean-up campaign

During his tenure of power, Mr. Aliyev turned Azerbaijan from



Geidar Aliyev

being one of the Soviet Union's least productive republics into being one of the few that consistently fulfils economic and industrial targets. But above all else he has launched a sweeping clean-up campaign that purged party ranks of corrupt elements and chased hundreds of officials out of office. According to his own version of events, he cracked down on embezzlement and on party officials who built private *dachas* (country homes) from pilfered materials and bribed their way to acquiring private cars and honorary degrees.

In an interview by the weekly newspaper *Literaturnaya Gazeta* a year ago, he said he had tried particularly to root out nepotism and was proud now that the children of ordinary workers could go to law school and not just "children of policemen, procurators and judges."

The "strengthening of Leninist legality" is a phrase that ranks high in Mr. Aliyev's political lexicon. He is also accustomed to being unpopular.

On leaving school in 1941, Mr. Aliyev as a teenager joined the state security organs known then as the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs (NKVD), the forerunner of today's KGB security police.

He rose from being an ordinary NKVD operative to become in 1967 head of the KGB in Azerbaijan — a post to which it is thought he was recommended by Mr. Andropov, who a short while before had been appointed head of the KGB nationally.

No details

No details are known of Mr. Aliyev's early career in the NKVD, although the very name of the organisation, then a vital instrument of repression under dictator Josef Stalin, inspired terror in the ordinary Soviet citizen.

Mr. Aliyev was particularly reputed for his public praise of Mr. Brezhnev. Late last month, some three weeks before Mr. Brezhnev's death, he referred to the late Kremlin leader no less than 133 times in a single speech. Mr. Brezhnev paid a three-day visit to Azerbaijan in late September — his last trip away from Moscow before his death — and received a rapturous welcome orchestrated by Mr. Aliyev.

But diplomats believe his fast-rising political fortunes owe as much to the patronage of Mr. Andropov, with whom he has been closely linked for at least 15 years. Mr. Andropov himself has always had a similar image of being "incorruptible" and diplomats see the two men as projecting a similar style.

A Western diplomat who met Mr. Aliyev recently described him as "tough, hard-headed, no-nonsense and intelligent." Another diplomat said he was "the perfect candidate to get things moving."

Baq'ah holds archaeological treasures

By Patrick McGovern

Since the Late Middle Palaeolithic — about 45,000 years ago — the Baq'ah Valley of Jordan, 15 kilometres northwest of Amman, has seen an almost continuous succession of human occupation. A good soil, abundant water and an arid climate which sustains diverse plants and animals have probably characterised this fertile, self-contained valley during much of its history — certainly during most of the post-Pleistocene era after 10,000 B.C., and very likely well before that. With average temperatures varying between about 9° Centigrade in January and 28° Centigrade in July, the Baq'ah now supports two crops each year, in May and September, including wheat, tobacco, tomatoes, and melons, along with the yield from vineyards and fruit and olive orchards.

Today the Baq'ah Valley is rapidly becoming a suburb of Amman. Its considerable archaeological treasures are jeopardised by modern development, and rescue operations have been undertaken to recover the maximum amount of data with the least expenditure of time, money and effort.

One of the most significant achievements has been the recovery of an artifact and skeletal sequence from a group of burial caves that spans the late Bronze Age down to the beginning of the Iron Age, from about 1550 to 1050 B.C. Imported Greek and Cypriot pottery wares recovered from the late Bronze caves demonstrated that Transjordan took part in the international trade of the time. Cylinder seals and glass beads, standing very near the beginning of glass-making in the Near East, were evidence of Mesopotamian contacts. Scarabs attested to Egyptian relations. Most important of all, however, was a cache of 11 complete pieces of iron jewelry from an early Iron Age tomb. Together with 40 additional fragments of another two dozen such artifacts, this jewelry almost tripled the number of iron objects known from early Iron Age Palestinian contexts, and represented a seven-fold increase for Transjordan. The iron is in fact a form of mild steel and as the earliest verified instance of mild steel from Jordan, it joins a small group of the earliest dated steel from the eastern Mediterranean.

Theory challenged

Archaeological material from the Baq'ah first surfaced in the winter of 1975-76, when late Bronze I (ca. 1550-1400 B.C.) pottery of an exceptional quality suddenly appeared on the antiquities market in Amman. The pottery had important implications, since an apparent lack of middle Bronze and late Bronze remains had been noted by Glueck and de Vaux, not just in the Baq'ah but in all of central and southern Transjordan. In order to account for this, Glueck proposed that the Transjordanian plateau, south of the Wadi Zarqa, had been inhabited only by nomads between about 1900 and 1300 B.C. His hypothesis appeared to support the biblical stories of patriarchal "nomadic" life and the eventual rise of the Israelite, Ammonite, Moabite, and Edomite kingdoms only at the beginning of the Iron Age. In one form or another, Glueck's theory found its way into most of the standard biblical and archaeological handbooks.

Yet the fine late Bronze Age pottery on the antiquities market immediately called Glueck's thesis into question again. The looted pottery was traced to a partly robbed-out burial cave (A2) on a hill bordering the northwestern Baq'ah, Jebel al-Hawayah. A rescue operation was initiated under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research and the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. At first, the plan was only to carry out a trial sounding in the cave with the hope of finding an undisturbed stratigraphic sequence of late Bronze Age pottery and artifacts. Although this goal was only partially realised, the archaeological remains recovered from the cave in 1977 were so impressive that a full-scale programme of survey and excavation was planned with additional support from the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, the National Geographic Society, the Kyle-Kelso Archaeological Fund, and a number of private donors.

Beginning with an intensive geophysical survey of the Umm ad-Dananih region in 1978, the study of the Baq'ah Valley became an integral part of the University Museum's Applied Science Center for Archaeology (MASCA). Test excavations of significant magnetic features in 1980 and 1981 led to the discovery of undisturbed late Bronze II (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.) and Iron IA burial remains (ca. 1200-1050 B.C.) — finds that filled out the archaeological record from 1550 to 1050 B.C. Moreover, test soundings at potential settlement sites in the region during the last two seasons culminated in the extensive investigation of a two-and-one-half hectare (six acre) site Khirbet Umm ad-Dananih, located at the northwestern pass to the valley, above the perennial spring of 'ain Umm ad-Dananih. Archaeological remains discovered here, contemporary with those from the burial caves, enabled archaeologists to make the essential connection of a settlement site with a cemetery.

The role of scientific survey methods has been crucial to the success of the Baq'ah Valley Project. Geophysical prospecting instruments, which had initially been developed to aid in the exploration for subsurface natural resources, have also proved to be invaluable for archaeological reconnaissance. The successful use of a prospecting instrument is directly related to the geology of a region. To start with, the Baq'ah Valley itself is a geological anomaly on the central Transjordanian plateau — a flat depressed plain encircled by hills, in striking contrast to the series of deeply cut gorges descending to the Jordan Valley that characterise the plateau. This suggested an ancient lake bed to early travellers — an intriguing hypothesis yet to be proved.

The hills surrounding the valley consist of tiers of limestone and sandstone, and the burial caves run in rows at the back of these tiers. Most of the caves were pro-



Cave A4 was crammed with bones of 220 individuals

bably first formed by erosion, and subsequently were enlarged for burials or occupation. They were all eventually silted up partially or fully, depending on the amount and intensity of rainfall, vegetation and soil development. In many places along the slopes, a soil covering of about 15 centimetres that thickens toward the back of the terraces would have permanently sealed off some of the cave entrances.

The challenge was to find and employ a method of detection which improved upon the visual techniques undeniably used by grave robbers — the usual tell-tale visual signs are vegetation clumps over cave entrances and unfilled crevices. After simulated trial tests in Philadelphia using soil and stone from the valley, the cesium magnetometer was ultimately chosen as best suited for the task at Baq'ah because a measurable magnetic contrast of as little as one part in 10,000 could be detected between the more magnetic soil inside the caves and the surrounding limestone and sandstone bedrock.

Magnetic investigation

The geophysical phase of the 1978 survey involved taking magnetic measurements every two metres in the vicinity of known robbed-out caves — 32 in all, almost all dating to various phases of the late Bronze Age. The data were then prepared a contour map with equal intensity intervals. Areas of high magnetic intensity could be pinpointed where filled-in caves might exist. The 1980 and 1981 field seasons were mounted with high hopes that archaeologically important caves could be found still hidden and intact. The area selected for initial study was a typical one on Jebel al-Hawayah, close to the already investigated Caves A1 and A2. Its high magnetic pattern showed a large, deep elliptical shape and there were also smaller low magnetic disturbances lying close by to the north.

The test excavation completely fulfilled all expectations. An undisturbed Iron IA burial cave (ca. 1200-1050 B.C.) lay beneath the ground, precisely in the area of high magnetism. And yet, when excavation began, only a small outcrop of bed rock was visible beneath a heavy cover of vegetation. The cave itself designated Cave A4, had been completely silted up; it had also been sealed off by six large boulders, each about

1.5 metres in length, which blocked the main entrance. A secondary entrance in the back roof of the cave had also been closed off with another large boulder. The interior of the cave was circular, and measured about 4.5 metres in diameter and two metres in height. Its main entrance faced due east onto a forecourt, measuring about 20 square metres, which was entered by a ramp on the southeast. Both the ramp and forecourt were completely silted up, in some places to a depth of 2.5 metres.

Cave A4 was literally crammed with bones. Over 220 individuals had been deposited in a pair of secondary heaps within the very restricted area of the cave. All ages were represented among the human skeletal remains; adult males were twice as numerous as adult females. The main pathologies consisted of arthritis and dental caries. The faunal collection included sheep, goat, dog and various species of terrestrial molluscs.

Accompanying the burials was a unique assemblage of 70 whole vessels in a considerable variety of forms — bowls, lamps, jugs, jugs, kraters, "beer strainers", a chalice, and basalt mortars. The pottery was an inferior product: the clay was poorly levigated, the wares badly fired, and decoration almost non-existent. Other assorted artifacts included beads of semiprecious stone, bone, and shell (glass and faience were rare); also one example each of a pendant, a scarab, a stamp seal, and a cylinder seal.

Possibly the most important discovery from this tomb, however, was the mild steel jewelry, which has major implications for the transition from the Bronze to Iron Age on the Transjordanian plateau. Why jewelry should have been manufactured of steel is unclear. Eight of the 11 complete specimens were anklets or bracelets; the other three were rings. The same simple methods of construction — overlapping or open ends with circular, elliptical or flat cross-sections — were evident in the 40 additional fragments. So well-preserved and uncorroded were six of the anklets or bracelets that a detailed study of the micro-structure was possible.

Exactly how the steel was made is open to question. The production process seems to have been well controlled, given the consistent levels and uniform distribution of carbides in the sam-

ples. Rather than the artisans having a clear understanding of the process, however, they may have left the artifacts to cool slowly in the hearth, which would effectively steel them. It should be noted that consistent levels of tin (ten to 15 per cent) are also typical of the bronze artifacts recovered from this tomb. These bronze objects include the same basic anklet, bracelet and ring types as well as earcel and toggle pins. Reflecting the more well-established tradition of bronze metallurgy, it is not surprising that the bronze items outnumber the iron items by a two-to-one ratio. Yet rather surprisingly, no weapons in either metal were found in Cave A4, even though the transitional period of Transjordan's entry into the Iron Age is often regarded as one of upheaval and war.

Still, there is no reason to suppose that the mild steel artifacts found here were imported.

Settled lifestyle

While Cave A4 furnished archaeological data for the beginning of the early Iron Age in the Baq'ah, Cave A2 — only 15 metres away — provided abundant evidence for a sedentary lifestyle in the valley during the late Bronze Age. It also attested to the existence of well-developed trade connections with other parts of the ancient world. The 1977 sounding in Cave A2 was confined to a 20-square-metre area. This represented only a quarter of the cave's total area, but afforded a very clear picture of the burial deposits. The uppermost layer, of course, had been very recently disturbed by the grave robbers. Even so, this layer produced eight whole vessels and over 5,000 sherds, mostly rims and bases of bowls, lamps jugs and jugs. This pottery dated primarily to the period from about 1550 to 1480 B.C., the late Bronze IA period, with a small mixture of later materials from late Bronze IB (ca. 1480-1400 B.C.) and later Bronze II (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.).

A unique find from this layer consisted of a body sherd from a thirteenth century B.C. Mycenaean IIB stirrup jar, comparable in shape and decoration to stirrup jars from several important nearby contexts — the Amman Airport Building, the Deir 'Alla sanctuary and Level VII at Beth Shan. This sherd and another four vessels of the same type from Cave B3, a late Bronze II tomb, originated most probably from central mainland Greece according to a neutron activation analysis study.

Moreover, neutron activation analysis of the ware of three Base Ring II jug fragments suggested a northeastern coastal Cypriot origin. This fact, combined with the central mainland Greece origin of the Mycenaean vessels, suggests that a maritime trade route flourished between Greece and Palestine during the period, with a probable stop-over point in Cyprus. Imports probably travelled overland along the Jezreel Valley, south through the Jordan Valley, and then up the Wadi Zarqa and Wadi Umm ad-Dananih to the Baq'ah Valley.

The ancient burial remains in Cave A2 were found below the upper layer. In the process of laying out multiple burials, earlier

interments were disturbed; older skeletons and their associated grave goods were pushed into jumbled heaps under and around boulders and cobbles that had washed into the cave of spalled off its roof. The skeletal remains comprised 14 people, at least six adults and three infants. Dental caries and excessive tooth wear, perhaps a result of the inadvertent mixing of grinding debris with grain, as well as arthritic lipping on vertebrae and limb bones (also a function of age and other factors) pointed to an agricultural way of life.

The 75 glass beads found in Cave A2 also imply that people in the Baq'ah Valley shared in the cosmopolitan civilisation of the late Bronze Age. While 42 types of beads were discovered — made not only of glass, but of faience, frit (primarily Egyptian Blue), copper, bronze, worked bone and shell, and various semiprecious stones, principally carnelian and agate — the most significant specimens were the so-called crumb and eye beads. Since glass was probably invented about 1600 B.C. in northern Mesopotamia, these finely crafted beads must stand very near the beginnings of glass-making in the Near East. And they are certainly among the earliest glass artifacts recovered on the Transjordanian plateau. The fact that the glass beads in this cave outnumbered those of faience by more than three to one, together with the discovery of four Mitannian Common Style cylinder seals, would indicate strong Syro-Mesopotamian — as opposed to Egyptian — connections in the late Bronze I period. Yet a green stone scaraboid and four glazed steatite scarabs, which have Egyptian parallels from late Second Intermediate and early Eighteenth Dynasty contexts, clearly attest to Egyptian contacts, either by trade or through a tradition of manufacturing techniques.

Thus, the Cave A2 sounding provided detailed evidence for an advanced late Bronze I culture in the Baq'ah Valley. With the exception of the Cypriot pottery and possibly the glass, cylinder seals, and scarabs, most of the pottery and artifacts were best explained as part of the local material culture, often found associated with imported material in other late Bronze I Palestinian burial caves at Lachish, Megiddo, Gezer, Pella, and Amman. The most adequate explanation for the quantity of exceptionally well-made pottery and artifacts would be a fully sedentary late Bronze community in the valley, which is further supported by the evidence for animal husbandry and agriculture.

Legless skeletons

More definitive evidence for permanent late Bronze settlement in the region emerged during the 1981 campaign. The excavation of Cave B3, a late Bronze II burial cave (ca. 1400-1200 B.C.) on Jebel Al Qesir, filled in the temporal gap between the artifacts assemblages from Caves A2 and A4, providing a complete sequence of pottery, artifacts and associated skeletal remains from about 1550 to 1050 B.C.

Although partly robbed out, Cave B3 deserved more detailed investigation for two reasons: it appeared to be the only known cave dating to the late Bronze II period, and it promised to be the

largest cave on Jebel Al Qesir if a high magnetic anomaly, four by six metres, proved to be another chamber or extension of the cave. Excavation revealed that the magnetic disturbance was indeed the result of the accumulation of enormous quantities of stone and soil that had silted through the hole at the back of the cave. This compacted mass of fill covered two undisturbed burial layers.

In the topmost layer, three skeletons were clustered around an inverted bichrome bowl. The legs of each body had apparently been detached before the flesh had completely decayed, since there were no butchering marks on the bones nor evident disarticulation which results from dismembering a skeleton. Fully articulated legs and stacks of long bones laid out in the same direction were found elsewhere in the cave. Intermingled with the upper skeletons (three others lay nearby) were pieces of charcoal and completely charred long bones. These might be interpreted as cremation remains as the charred human bones found in and around the Amman Airport Building have been. But it is possible, too, that the bones in Cave B3 found their way into a campfire in the cave of a more mundane sort, which might account for a blackened cooking pot from the same context.

Below a ten-centimetre sterile layer lay a second level of burial remains. Although the pottery and artifacts were similar to those in the level above, their stratigraphic relationship obviously dated them to an earlier phase of late Bronze II. The intact skeletons of six individuals were recovered here — again without legs

dominated by sheep and goat remains. A single grain of carbonised bread wheat (*Triticum durum*), clearly a domesticated species, was the first direct evidence for agriculture.

Cave B3 provides the all-important connection between the late Bronze I and Iron Age IA remains recovered earlier from Caves A2 and A4. The wide technological divergence between the fine wares of the late Bronze I period and the coarse, badly fired pottery from the Iron Age IA period is bridged by the late Bronze II evidence recovered from Cave B3. Less care was taken in forming the late Bronze II vessels, and at least seven examples, all miniatures, were hand-made. Poor firing and tempering with calcite, which disintegrates at a low temperature and weakens the fabric, are features shared by the late Bronze II and Iron IA wares.

On the other hand, the late Bronze II pottery types, which are often slipped and painted with monochrome or bichrome bands, show greater affinity with late Bronze I types. Nor was pottery as prevalent in Cave A4, the Iron IA cave. There, only 711 vessels were found in conjunction with a very large number of burials — 227 — whereas, in Cave B3, more than 300 vessels were found with about 50 individuals, approximately the same proportion as for the late Bronze I Cave A2. The three-to-one ratio of glass to faience in the late Bronze I period is just the inverse of that for late Bronze II (one to three), and both materials virtually disappear in Iron IA.

Future studies

The study of the Baq'ah Valley is an ongoing project which will continue for some time. Now in progress, for example, are pathological and genetic studies of the bones from the three caves. These analyses may well hold the key to establishing the racial continuity or discontinuity of the late Bronze-early Iron Age human population in the Umm ad-Dananih region.

There remains to be discussed the probable settlement site associated with the cemetery at Khirbet Umm ad-Dananih, which promises to be highly rewarding because archaeological material from the same time span covered by the burial caves is found here. During the 1980 and 1981 seasons, five four-by-four metre squares were opened, which resulted in the discovery of an unusually massive wall, about one-and-a-half metres wide and consisting of two lines of large boulders, three metres below the surface and beneath early Roman and late Iron Age remains.

The goals of future seasons of work at Khirbet Umm ad-Dananih will be to gain a wider exposure of the upper levels, and then remove them to excavate fully the late Bronze Age levels. Iron I surface sherds suggest that the site was occupied during that time as well. This level may be more difficult to locate, however, since the apparent lower standard of living may have gone along with a contracted area of settlement. The ideal result would be to find a stratified sequence of late Bronze and early Iron Age levels matching those from the burial caves. But the fulfilment of such a hope must await a great deal of further meticulous work in this fascinating and culturally complex region.

— Archaeology magazine, New York



"Beer-strainer" from Cave A4

— including a pre-adolescent female with a rare condition of spinal curvature. It may or may not be significant that this body was the most ornately decorated. Besides a double-strung necklace of more than a hundred beads — one string solely of short bronze cylindrical beads, the other of glass bead in various colours and shapes — there was a large, roughly cut carnelian barrel bead placed at the back of the neck, together with flanking pairs of small spherical carnelian beads.

The cave deposits yielded over 300 whole vessels, primarily bowls and lamps, a partially decomposed calcite vessel and fragments of a bronze bowl, four Mycenaean IIB stirrup jars, a Cypriot White Slip II milk bowl, and an excellent collection of jewelry, including a fragment of an iron anklet or bracelet comparable to a Cave A4 type. Two weapons — a bronze javelin head and an arrowhead — were also found. Several fish vertebrae were a new addition to the faunal collection, which was again

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 — Kanan
17:35 — Cartoons
18:15 — Children's Programme
18:30 — Local Programme
19:00 — Local Programme
19:30 — News in Arabic
20:00 — Arabic Series
20:30 — Arabic Programme on Women
21:00 — Arabic Programme
21:30 — News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 — French Programme
18:30 — News in French
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:30 — Comedy: Home Call
21:00 — 100 Great Paintings
21:30 — Stargate and Hatch
22:00 — News in English
22:15 — Hart to Hart

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz AM & 99 MHz FM & partly on 95.60 KHz SW

07:10 — Morning Show
08:00 — News Summary
08:30 — Morning Show
09:00 — News Summary
09:30 — News Summary
10:00 — News Summary
10:30 — News Summary
11:00 — News Bulletin
11:30 — Music
12:00 — Concert Hour
12:30 — News Summary
13:00 — News Summary
13:30 — News Summary
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:30 — Music
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23:00 — News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsday 06:30 The Echo News 06:45 News from London 06:55

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* The Italian Contemporary Art Exhibition, at the Arts Gallery.
* 30 Years of Jordanian-American Economic Cooperation, at the American Centre.
* Paintings by Ayyad Al-Nimer, at the British Council.

VIDEO

* Sport: Kriter II (5:00 p.m.) and Opera: Paris-Chamoun (at 6:00 p.m.) at the French Cultural Centre.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 37440.
De la Sade Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 661757.
Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 2354.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 43453.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafiah, 71331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafiah, 75261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafiah, 71751.
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist Church in Shmezzani, 663249.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre Tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84555

MUSEUMS

Poldark Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qasr (Clay Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays) 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Leventeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30123.
Military Museum: Collection of military paraphernalia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyce Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Royal Circle. Tel. 615261.

PRAYER TIMES

06:55 — Fair
06:23 — (Sunrise) Shuray
11:27 — Dhuhr
14:13 — 'Asr
16:38 — Maghrib
17:58 — Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 — Cairo (EA)
06:45 — Cairo (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

06:45 — Cairo (EA)
06:45 — Damascus (RJ)
06:45 — Athens (RJ)
06:45 — Moscow (SU)
06:45 — Beirut (RJ)
06:45 — Kuwait (RJ)
06:45 — Muscat, Dhahran (RJ)
06:45 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
06:45 — Beirut (RJ)
06:45 — Kuwait (RJ)
06:45 — Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
06:45 — Moscow (SU)
06:45 — Kuwait (KAC)
06:45 — Tbilisi, Athens (TV)
06:45 — Jeddah, Medina (SV)
06:45 — Baghdad (RJ)
06:45 — Cairo (RJ)
06:45 — New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:45 — Athens (GF)
06:45 — Cairo (RJ)
06:45 — Cairo (EA)
06:45 — Baghdad (RJ)
06:45 — Amsterdam, Athens (KL)
06:45 — Tripoli (LN)
06:45 — Beirut (MEA)
06:45 — London (BA)
06:45 — Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
06:45 — Cairo (RJ)
06:45 — Baghdad (RJ)
06:45 — Beirut (RJ)
06:45 — Cairo (EA)

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SPORTS

Evert clinches Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Chris Evert produced her best ever tennis on grass against Martina Navratilova Sunday to win the Australian Open Championship — the one Grand Slam event which had always eluded her in the past.

Lloyd, winner of six U.S., four French and three Wimbledon titles, won 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 to relieve Navratilova of the title and move to a 30-18 lifetime lead over her great rival.

Navratilova, who beat Lloyd in the final here last year and again at Wimbledon this summer, had won 14 of her previous 16 tournaments since January, losing only to West German Sylvia Hanika and American Pam Shriver.

But the number one seed never looked capable of lifting her fifth Grand Slam title and admitted: "I played lousy. I just had one of those days and when you do that against a top player you're not going to make it. I don't want to take anything away from Chris. She played a great match."

Lloyd may, or may not, be

about to embark on her bid to become the first woman since Australian Margaret Court in 1970 to complete the Grand Slam of the four major tournaments.

Traditionalists insist the Grand Slam must be completed in the same calendar year and with the Australian Open's recent switch from January to December it has become the last of the four events to be played.

Others take the view that holding all four titles is enough, which would leave Lloyd with just the French and Wimbledon next summer to complete the elusive feat.

Sunday's match never reached the heights of last year, when Navratilova won a classic encounter 6-7, 6-4, 7-5.

Lloyd battled back from 5-1 down to 5-5 in the final set in 1981 before losing and admitted: "I still dream of that last set."

For a brief spell, Lloyd looked like she might throw victory away for a second time when, after achieving service breaks in the second

and fourth games for a 5-1 lead in the final set, Navratilova pulled back the next two games.

Lloyd described the Australian title as "the missing link" in her career and added: "In 10 years time I would have looked back and thought there was something missing, especially since I've been in the final twice."

The American, currently the world's number two, surprised Navratilova by repeatedly taking the initiative at the net.

"When you play Martina you have to take the net away because she's devastating there," Lloyd said.

Navratilova, who later teamed up with Shriver to beat West Germans Claudia Kohde and Eva Pfaff 6-4, 6-2 in the doubles final, blamed her defeat on too many unforced errors.

"Shots I routinely make I was missing," she said, "and I had games when I got only one out of six first serves in. It was one of those days when no matter what you try you just don't get there."

Austrian skiers upstage Swiss

PONTRESINA, Switzerland (R) — Austrian skiers upstaged the seasoned Swiss on the Lagalb near here Sunday by taking the two top places in the men's downhill race, the opening event of the Alpine World Cup skiing season.

Harti Weirather, reigning World Champion and World Cup winner in 1981, cruised to his sixth individual World Cup victory on the difficult 2.7 km course in a time of one minute 42.13 seconds, a second ahead of his fellow-countryman Franz Klammer and Swiss favourite Peter Mueller.

Klammer's second place was one of the day's many surprises, seemingly due more to determination than technical prowess. Vladimir Makeyev of the Soviet Union also did astoundingly well to finish eighth.

Switzerland's Conradin Cathomen, widely fancied to share the honours with Mueller, was unlucky to come fourth after losing his balance near the end of the course.

A disappointed Steve Podborski of Canada, the current cup-holder, came 12th and blamed his team's poor showing on an over-relaxed attitude.

Floyd wins Sun City golf

SUN CITY, South Africa (R) — The sudden-death playoff looks like becoming the hallmark of the Sun City million dollar golf challenge, following Ray Floyd's nail-biting victory over fellow American Craig Stadler Sunday.

In January's inaugural tournament, American Johnny Miller finally clinched victory over Spain's Severiano Ballesteros after an epic nine extra holes.

Sunday, U.S. PGA champion Floyd had to wait until the 76th hole to carry off the \$300,000 winner's cheque—thanks to two errors by Stadler.

Hearns willing to give Benitez another chance

NEW ORLEANS (R) — Thomas Hearns, once known as the "Detroit Hit Man" for the savagery of his punching, became a world champion for the second time here on Friday night when he out-thought and outboxed Puerto Rican Wilfredo Benitez.

The 24-year-old former World Boxing Association (WBA) welterweight champion ended Benitez' 18-month reign as World Boxing Council (WBC) super-welterweight king with a majority points verdict.

Magnanimous in victory, Hearns immediately said he would be more than happy to give Benitez another chance before turning his attention to undisputed middleweight titleholder Marvin Hagler of the United States.

Two of the judges had Hearns a clear winner, scoring the fight 146-136 and 144-139, but the third saw things differently and decided Benitez had done enough to earn a draw.

But even the Puerto Rican's best friends would have found that assessment difficult to accept.

Hearns used his eight-inch reach advantage to deadly effect and dominated the opening seven rounds by sticking his long left jab repeatedly into the champion's face.

But it was Hearns' dynamite right fist which almost brought the contest to a premature end in the sixth round. A bludgeoning

hook to the chin buckled Benitez' legs with six seconds remaining and only the bell saved the champion.

Then, inexplicably, Hearns almost threw away the title in the eighth round when he switched tactics and stood rooted in the middle of the ring to slug it out.

Benitez could hardly believe his luck and he enjoyed three rounds of supremacy with an awesome body assault.

In the 11th, the fight swung again. Benitez decided to coast for three minutes and never regained the initiative as Hearns completed his 35th win in 36 fights, 32 inside the distance.

Benitez, who was making his third defence of the crown he wrested from Britain's Maurice Hope in May 1981, has 43 wins, one draw and two defeats to his credit.

Boxing's most durable champion, WBC super-bantamweight King Wilfredo Gomez of Puerto Rico, completed his 17th defence of the title when he stopped Mexican challenger Lupe Pintor in the 14th round.

Pintor, the WBC bantamweight champion, could not cope with Gomez' superior strength and stamina.

Gomez, 26, has held the title for five and a half years, making him the longest-reigning current champion.

The other world heavyweight boxing champion, the virtually

anonymous Mike Weaver, returns from a 14-month layoff to defend his World Boxing Association (WBA) title against top contender Michael Dokes here on Friday.

Weaver, 30, who is forced to play second fiddle to World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Larry Holmes, will be defending his title for the third time. He won the crown when he knocked out John Tate in the 15th round on March 31, 1980.

The American has fought only twice in the last 32 months. In his first defence, he knocked out South African Gerrie Coetzee in the 13th round on Oct. 25, 1980. Then he outpointed compatriot James "Quick" Tillis on Oct. 3, 1981.

Managerial disputes and injuries, both to himself and his opponents, have forced delays and cancellations of scheduled bouts.

Three times this year, Weaver was supposed to defend against Randy Cobb. The first time, last July, he injured a shoulder and had to postpone the match. It was re-scheduled for a month later but Cobb suffered a badly-cut lip in training and it had to be postponed again.

The two promoters re-set the fight for Oct. 23. But that clash also fell apart when a court ruled that Weaver had to first defend against Dokes, the top contender, and the WBA complied, deciding that Weaver was due for a mandatory defence against Dokes.

Subsequently, Cobb signed to fight Holmes, who easily won a points decision over Cobb on Nov. 26 in Houston.

But the Texan, now based in Los Angeles, has a mediocre record of 24 wins and nine losses. He stopped 16 men within the distance, but was knocked out himself four times early in his professional career and again by Holmes when he challenged for the WBC title in June, 1979.

In Dokes, he will be facing an undefeated American with fast hands and a stinging left jab. The only question mark hanging over Dokes is his desire for combat when things become rugged.

Dokes, 24, ranked number one contender by both the WBA and WBC, has a record of 25 wins and one draw since he turned professional in 1976. The draw was against Osvaldo Ocasio, now the WBA cruiserweight champion. Dokes has stopped 14 men.

"They say Weaver's a slow starter in his fights," Dokes said. "Weaver was rusty against Tillis. If that was me in that fight instead of Tillis, I'd be the champion now."

"He'll be even rustier this time. There is no way a slow guy like him is going to decision me, and I sure can't see him catching me and hitting me hard enough to stop me. So what does that leave? Me as the new champion."

English cricket facing cash crisis

LONDON (R) — English cricket is facing a cash crisis after a major sponsor withdrew recently, saying the county game was no longer worth backing.

Cricket in this country has now lost two major sponsors for 1984 in the past five weeks. One from county cricket, the other from the World Cup.

"At the price, sponsoring the County Championship is not cost effective," a spokesman for Schweppes, the soft-drink makers, said.

Schweppes, who will have put over one million sterling (\$1.6 million) into the County Championship since 1977 and have £250,000 (\$400,000) budgeted for 1983, decided last week not to renew the contract.

Prudential Assurance, backers

of the Cricket World Cup since 1972, announced a month ago they would stop funding the competition after 1983.

But unlike Schweppes, Prudential were "very satisfied" with the results of advertising through cricket sponsorship, a spokesman said.

Despite these setbacks, Peter Lush of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), who have overall responsibility for the English game, was confident new sponsors could be found.

Schweppes, however, remain less optimistic as far as the County Championship is concerned. The championship gets small crowds and little television coverage, the company's spokesman said. "We get some newspaper and radio coverage, but this is not enough."

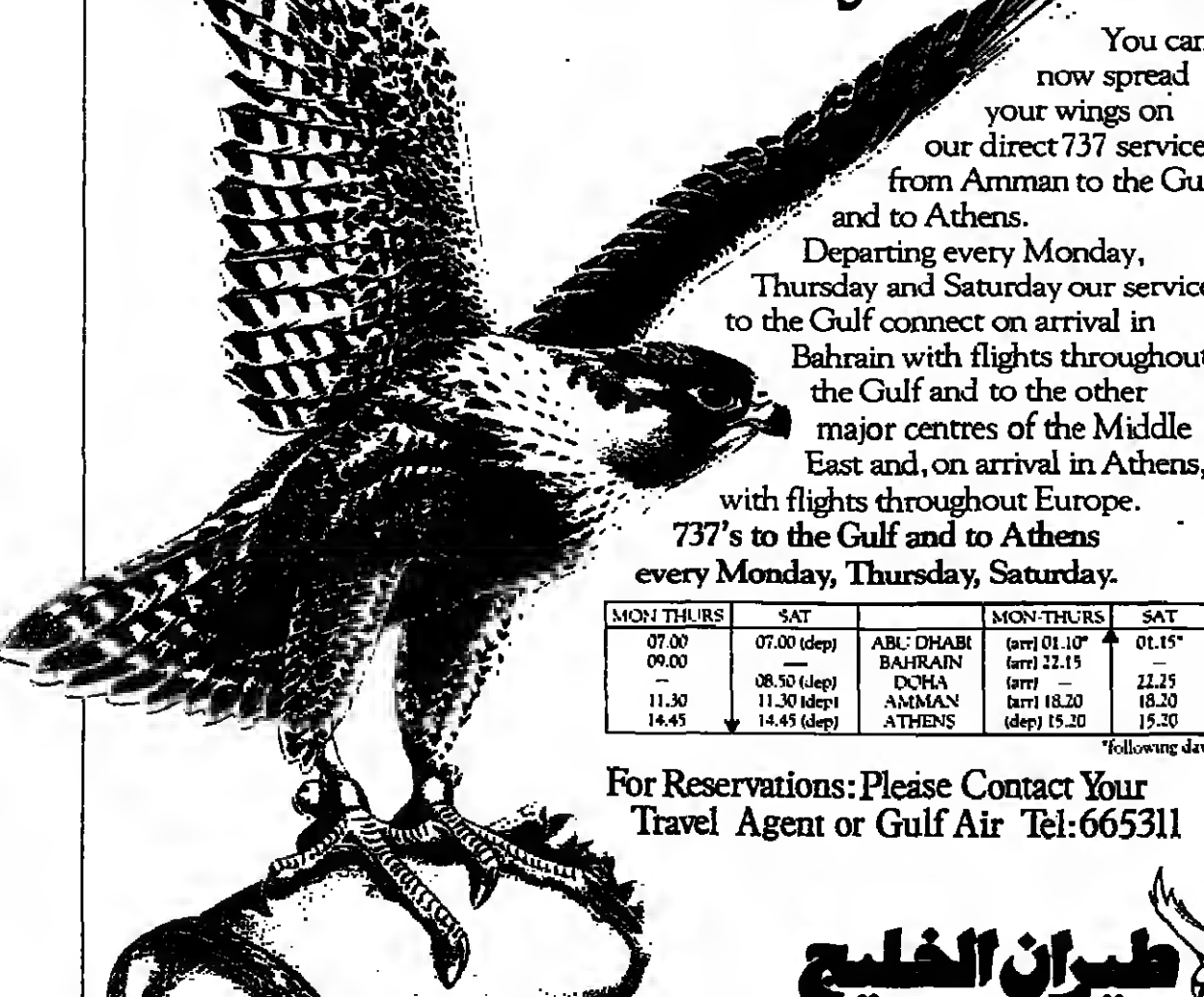
Britain's press last week predicted hard times ahead for county cricket.

"The competition stands in greater peril of extinction than at any other time in its hundred-odd years existence," John Arlott wrote in the Guardian. The county game was the foundation of English first-class cricket, he said.

The Sun predicted a cash crisis for county cricket and difficulties in finding a new sponsor. The three-day game's popularity had fallen well behind that of one-day League and Cup cricket, it said.

"Things are not easy with the current state of the economy," the Schweppes spokesman said, adding that unlike television advertising, returns from backing sport were unpredictable.

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Olympic spirit pervaded Asian Games

NEW DELHI (R) — The Chinese were impressive in victory, the North Koreans belligerent in defeat and the Iranians lauded God and Ayatollah Khomeini in their moments of triumph.

Protests were few and far between and national rivalries seldom surfaced. All in all, the idealised Olympic spirit of friendly competition pervaded the Asian Games which ended here Saturday.

The most ugly moment came when North Korean players and

supporters beat up a Thai referee because of a penalty he awarded against them in a football match they lost 2-3 to Kuwait.

The North Koreans were duly deprived of the bronze medal and suspended from taking part in any international football tournament for two years.

China edged Japan out of its long-held Asian medal supremacy, revealing a depth of talent in many of the 21 sporting events, even with their top men's table tennis player Cal Zhenhua injured

during preliminary matches they won six of the seven gold medals at stake.

Chinese gymnasts stunned spectators with their poise and agility and their badminton players confirmed their overall superiority despite a determined challenge by Indonesia.

But the Chinese, with eyes on the 1984 Olympics, were far from complacent.

"We did well, but not very well," said a Chinese sports commentator, expressing concern about basketball, men's volleyball and football, where they failed to win gold.

Japan's volleyball men salvaged national pride by beating China but ended up with four fewer gold medals in the overall tally than China who collected 61—and for the first time in three decades, Japan failed to top the gold medal table.

As expected, Japan dominated the swimming events but fell four gold short of their 1978 score of 23 and lost the water polo final to China.

"We hadn't realised how much other countries like China, South Korea and Singapore had improved," the Japanese coach commented.

Neither China nor Japan managed to win gold in the traditionally more glamorous track events—the men and women's 100

metres, the 1,500 metres and the marathon.

Teenage beauty Lydia de Vega of the Philippines thrust her hand high as she breasted the tape to win the women's sprint, while Malaysian policeman Rabuan Pili won the men's 100 metres.

South Korean student Yang Kon Kim lost two kilos in weight but won a gold medal in the grueling marathon and an Iraqi soldier, Capt. Fahd Jarala, caused an upset to win the 1,500 metres by a big margin.

The two Koreans finished third and fourth in the overall medals table, with the South collecting 28 gold and the North 17. They overshadowed all other nations in the boxing tournament where the South Koreans won seven gold and the Northmen two.

North Korean soldier So Gil Man won four individual golds and a share in three team titles in the shooting championships.

Hosts India came next with 13 golds, cornering most equestrian and golf titles but losing the one they wanted most—the men's hockey title which Pakistan won 7-1 in a superb display of artistry and tactical dominance.

Three girls from Kuwait won gold, silver and bronze in the equestrian show jumping event. Iraq and Kuwait won through to the finals of the football with the Iraqis taking the gold 1-0.

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AL ARZ NURSERY is still accepting registration for the second trimester. Those interested may please contact Tel. 669450 daily from 9:00 - 13:00. AL ARZ NURSERY provides besides educational games complete in - and out-door entertainments and communicates with its children in any of the following languages: ENGLISH, GERMAN, FRENCH and ARABIC.

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REPORT ON SITRA '82 BY KOREA TRADE CENTER-AMMAN

As scheduled, the Seoul International Fair (SITRA '82) officially closed on Monday, Oct. 18, 1982.

General attendance, for example, totalled 2,250,000 or almost 100,000 per day of the fair's 25-day run. However, the number of foreign buyers who visited SITRA almost exactly equalled KOTRA's (Korea Trade Promotion Corp.) advance estimate of 10,000.

During the fair, business negotiations, including \$227-million in import negotiations, were initiated or completed between foreign traders and Korean firms. Of this total import negotiations, some \$107 million in spot contracts had already been signed, and delivered by the conclusion of the fair. With this inventory of accomplishments to their credit, all the participants in SITRA '82—organisers, exhibitors, buyers, and the general public—can be proud to have taken part in this landmark occasion in the history of modern S. Korea.

SITRA'S FOREIGN BUYERS BY COUNTRY

Asia & Oceania	6,022
North America	2,017
Latin America	206
Europe	1,225
Middle East	391
Africa	310

TOTAL 10,171

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GERMAN CONCERT WEEK

In view of the continuous demand for tickets for the concert of the German Chamber Academy Orchestra on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 1982 (which is completely sold out), the organisers of the German Concert Week in Amman have the pleasure to announce that an ADDITIONAL

SPECIAL CONCERT will take place on Thursday, Dec. 9, 1982, at 8 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre: THE GERMAN CHAMBER ACADEMY ORCHESTRA

conducted by Johannes Goritzky will present works by J.S. Bach, Ph.E. Bach and S. Veress.

Tickets for JD 4 each available at: The Goethe Institute (Tel. 41993 from 9 p.m. to 12) and the Haya Arts Centre (Tel. 665195).

U.S. trade deficit should drive down value of dollar

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States is expected to have its largest trade deficit this year and next, a development most financial analysts think should drive down the value of the dollar in international money markets.

What they cannot say is when the dollar decline will begin.

"Two or three years from now it's clearly going to be much lower, but there's no way of forecasting when," Economist Lester Thurow of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) told Reuters.

"This is one of the murkier areas of economic analysis," said Mr. Allen Sinai, another private economist.

According to analysts, currency values tend to reflect movements in inflation, interest rates, and trade balances.

When examined in the light of these variables, a majority of economists believe the dollar is overvalued, especially in relation to the Japanese yen and the West German mark.

"There has got to be a correction in the value of the dollar," according to Mr. David Ernst, a senior analyst with the private firm Evans Economics, who says the dollar is simply "out of line with the fundamentals."

Mr. Ernst confidently predicts a 15 to 20 per cent decline in the value of the dollar relative to the yen and mark in the next year, but he is one of the few analysts willing to make a firm forecast.

Commerce Department Economist David Lund probably represents the majority view best.

Mr. Lund, who specializes in trade analysis, says the U.S. merchandise trade deficit will eclipse the 1978 record of \$42.4 billion this year and move up sharply again next year. In October the deficit was \$5.33 billion.

Some senior Reagan Administration officials say the deficit could easily exceed \$60 billion next year.

"The expected deficits usually result in deterioration of the dollar — all other things being equal," Mr. Lund told Reuters. "All other things are never equal," he added. Ironically, the strong dollar,

which has risen in value by more than 30 per cent against most other currencies in the past two years, has not helped the U.S. economy.

The record trade deficits anticipated for 1983 are partly the fault of the rising dollar, which has boosted prices of American exports and made them less attractive to foreign consumers.

"When the dollar goes to very high levels, it destroys your exports," Mr. Thurow said.

In addition, a decline in the dollar's value will not immediately reverse the upward trend in trade deficits, analysts say, because the full effects of changing currency values can be spread over as long as two years.

The strong dollar could hold back the long-awaited recovery from the U.S. recession and the impact on the steel and car industries may be particularly devastating.

These industries are already under assault from foreign competition and the strength of the dollar tends to reduce the price of foreign goods and make them more attractive to American consumers.

Americans can buy German cars and Japanese electronics at cheaper prices because the dollar is high.

"U.S. manufactured products have become unsellable on world markets because they are simply too expensive," Mr. Thurow said.

Changing currency values alone have boosted the cost of a \$10,000 American product from 18,000 marks in October 1980 to 26,000 marks today, he noted.

But at least one analyst thinks the dollar has still further to climb. The dollar will be stronger again next year because cuts in the six-month Treasury bill have made the dollar more attractive to investors, according to Mr. Sinai, a senior economist with the economic consulting firm Data Resources.

He agrees with other analysts that at some point the worsening trade picture will undermine the dollar, but he adds: "It will not lose much of its gains."

USSR, Japan agree on fish quotas

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union and Japan have agreed to maintain this year's fish catch quotas in each other's 200-mile economic sea zones next year, government sources said Sunday.

They said the Japanese quota would be kept at 750,000 tonnes and the Soviet Union's at 650,000 tonnes, the levels in force since 1979, under an agreement reached in Tokyo Saturday night.

During the negotiations, begun on Nov. 24, the Soviet side had demanded that Japan's quota be cut by 100,000 tonnes, the sources said.

The Japanese compromised by agreeing to Soviet trawling in the Pacific off northern Japan all the year round instead of banning it as before in July and August, and on trial tuna fishing by two Soviet boats in part of the Pacific, according to the sources.

Spain devalues peseta

MADRID (R) — Spain's new socialist government effectively devalued the floating peseta by eight per cent Saturday in its first move to revive the country's ailing economy.

Mr. Miguel Boyer, sworn in as economy, commerce and finance minister with the rest of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's cabinet 24 hours earlier, said the peseta would open on Monday at 127.66 pesetas to the dollar, eight per cent below its 117.45 peseta close last week.

The Bank of Spain would then leave the market to determine a final level, he said, though he gave no indication of the central bank's future intervention policy.

The peseta has depreciated against the dollar by about 20 per cent since the start of this year.

It was first floated against other currencies in 1974 and effectively devalued against the dollar by 24.87 per cent in 1977.

Mr. Boyer, announcing the move on television, cited spiralling inflation, forecast to reach 15 per cent by the end of the year, a deteriorating balance of payments deficit and increased speculation as the main reasons behind the decision.

He later told a press conference that speculation had been provoked by rumours over future socialist policy regarding the peseta which had been circulating since the Oct. 28 general elections, in which the socialists won an absolute majority.

Mr. Boyer said the devaluation had been carefully considered with the help of experts from the Bank of Spain and would inevitably help the country's flagging exports.

But opposition critics said the move would be inflationary and contradicted the government's declared aims for the economy.

Mr. Gonzalez has said he hopes to end inflation to 12 per cent by the end of next year while the government hopes money supply growth will slow to 13 per cent

from the Bank of Spain's 17.5 per cent ceiling this year.

Mr. Boyer also announced that private banks' obligatory deposits with the Bank of Spain would be raised one percentage point to 6.75 per cent of total deposits as a means of absorbing an expected rise in the money supply after the devaluation.

Bankers said the effective eight per cent devaluation appeared carefully timed following Friday's Bank of Spain directive to Spanish banks not to lend pesetas on the short term foreign exchange markets outside the country from Monday.

Market sources said the central bank spent almost \$700 million of its gold and foreign exchange reserves in October to stop the peseta's slide.

Mr. Boyer said he would be seeing the presidents of Spain's seven largest banks on Thursday and would put to them some of the government's further plans for the economy.

Bonn's reluctant industrialist

BONN — Whether he likes it or not — and the chances are that he does not — Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, West Germany's new finance minister, finds himself at the top of an industrial empire.

For one thing, his companies are in some of the most problem-ridden sectors, such as steel, ships and coal. For another, as a Christian Democrat (CDU) and firm supporter of the market economy, Herr Stoltenberg must have some misgivings on ideological, as well as economic grounds.

The industrial companies in question are either wholly or largely owned by the federal state — and form only one part of a wider picture of state holding, extending into the banking, transport, building, research and development.

The federal net even reaches as far as Davos, Switzerland, where there is a clinic for war victims, and to Berlin where the government shares control of an organisation to run cultural festivals.

According to a new 600-page report issued by the Bonn government, the state has — directly and indirectly — stakes in more than 900 enterprises of the most varied kind.

It is worth stressing that the figures relate only to activities in which the federal government — including its agencies such as the post and railways — has an interest, not to those in which the provincial state governments are involved on their own behalf.

However, the available data give a picture of state influence which is clearly lower than that in France, for example, but which is greater than might have been expected in a country which so often publicly stresses the importance of private enterprise and market forces.

This emerges most sharply in the industrial sector for which the

finance ministry has the administrative responsibility. In addition to the industrial concerns mentioned earlier, in which the state has a controlling stake, there are two other major companies in which it has a minority, but still highly influential share.

They are, the energy and chemicals concerns Veba, the biggest German industrial enterprise in terms of turnover, and Volkswagen (V.W.) the vehicles manufacturer.

The companies — Veba, V.W.



Dr. Gerhard Stoltenberg, Bonn's new finance minister

and the majority holdings — together had turnover last year of DM108 billion (\$42 billion) and employed more than 450,000 people.

The finance ministry votes with apparent pride that total investment was up to DM8.4 billion after DM6.9 billion in 1980, and that quite a lot of it went on projects in structurally weak regions (for example Lower Saxony where V.W. and Salzgitter have their headquarters).

This comment is not developed, but raises the question of how far investment may have been conditioned by regional investment needs and how far by the best profit interests of the enterprises involved.

The importance of these companies is further underlined by figures showing their joint share of domestic industrial production.

For example, nearly half of West German production of aluminium comes from this group (chiefly through VAW, which is part of the Vieg concern), one third of its iron ore, one quarter of its electric power and 12 per cent of its hard coal.

Apart from its industrial interests, the finance ministry is also involved in what one would expect to be its more natural line of business — banking.

By far the most important example is the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau — literally "credit office for reconstruction" — which has its origin in the European Recovery Programme (Marshall Aid) after World War II.

Nowadays it provides cheap loans for medium-sized companies in particular, takes over export business guarantees — and come in handy to the federal government (which has an 80 per cent stake) politically as well as financially from time to time.

One example is the cheap credit it provided to Poland in the mid-1970s, a key element in the development of better relations between Bonn and Warsaw.

The fact that the state has a majority stake does not imply that the enterprise concerned meekly accepts a dictate from Bonn.

Lufthansa, the West German airline majority-owned by the federal state, vigorously pressed the government a few years ago for reimbursement of losses cau-

sed by a go-slow of air traffic controllers, who are civil servants and not allowed to go on strike.

Many people are now watching to see whether the new head of Lufthansa, former state secretary Herr Heinz Ruhnau, will show as independent a spirit as his predecessor, Herr Herbert Culmann.

Some of this state involvement arose naturally out of the first reconstruction years of the federal republic. More — like the stake in the energy giant Veba — is directly linked to the country's strategic needs.

Still more seems to have emerged either through the need to support lame ducks for over-riding regional and employment interests, or almost by chance.

Does it pay?

In one way it does.

Last September the state had a gross income from all its holdings of almost DM200 million — not a huge sum, but then there are legal barriers to Bonn's soaking every last pfennig of profit out of its enterprises even if it wanted to.

This year income will be down a little, not least because of a lower V.W. dividend (from 20 per cent to 16 per cent).

On the other hand it involves Bonn in a great deal of work — and there is always the risk that state involvement in one company in difficulties will mean greater pressure from others for similar treatment when times are harsh.

As Herr Stoltenberg contemplates his empire he can at least console himself with one thought. His predecessor (a Social Democrat) fought off recent demands that Bonn take a direct stake in the deeply troubled electricals group, AEG-Telefunken. That would really have given Herr Stoltenberg an inheritance to worry about.

— Financial Times news features

B.A. reports more profits

LONDON (R) — British Airways (B.A.) reported Sunday sharply increased profits for the peak travel season.

But losses during the off-season may cancel out profits by the end of the financial year, the airline said.

A company spokesman reported increased turnover and a surplus of £151 million (\$240 million) before interest charges for the six months ended Sept. 30, an improvement of £126 million (\$202 million).

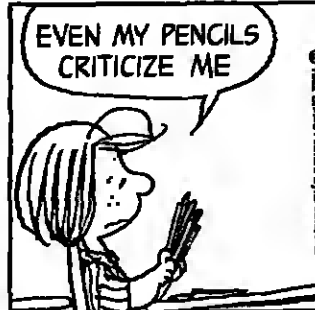
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

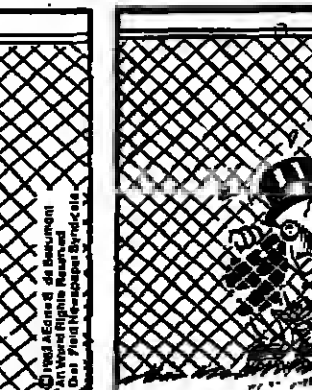


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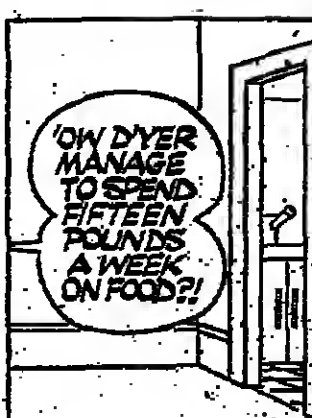
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

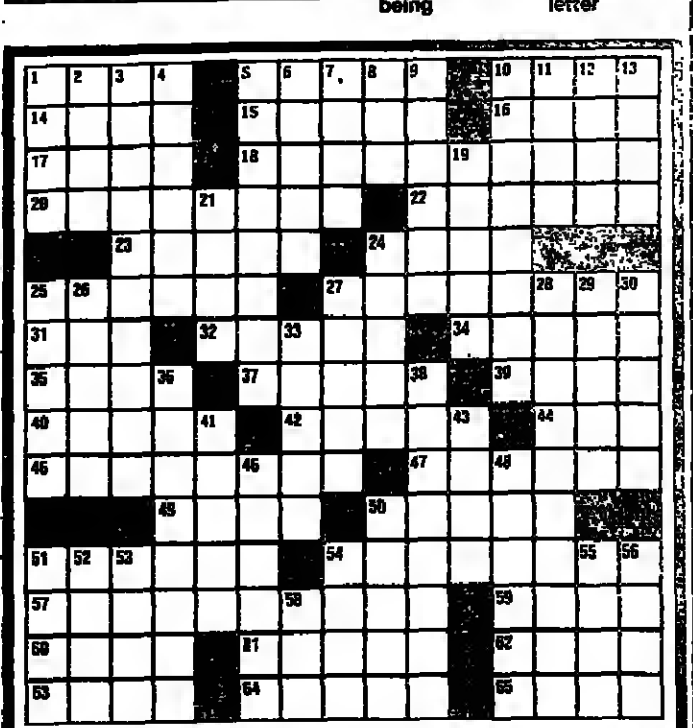


THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon

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			53 Extreme desire
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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WORLD

Reagan's C. American tour outrages critics

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (R) — President Reagan left Central America Saturday night after a 24-hour visit which is virtually certain to fuel fresh controversy over U.S. policy on the turbulent region.

Mr. Reagan had talks with the presidents of four conservative Central American republics — Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala — on the final leg of a tour which began in Brazil and ended in San Pedro Sula, Honduras' second largest city.

While the stated aim of the tour was to promote democracy, there had been suggestions throughout the region that Mr. Reagan's chief aim was to rally conservative forces against left-wing Nicaragua even if that meant glossing over violations of human rights.

The security forces in both El Salvador and Guatemala have been accused of large-scale abuses of human rights, ranging from massacres of civilians in Guatemala to torture, disappearances and political murders in El Salvador.

But after talks with Guatemalan strongman, Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt, in San Pedro Sula, President Reagan praised the military government's "progressive efforts"

and pledged U.S. support for dealing with Guatemala's problems.

Human rights organisations have accused Guatemala's army and security forces of massacring more than 2,600 peasants since launching an anti-guerrilla offensive after the military coup which brought Gen. Ríos Montt to power last March.

There has also been sharp criticism of Guatemala in the U.S. Congress.

After meeting El Salvador's President Alvaro Magaña in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, Mr. Reagan declared that El Salvador was making "great progress against great odds" in promoting reforms and curbing human rights abuses.

His statement came five weeks after his ambassador in San Salvador, Deane Hinton, painted a grim picture of the human rights situation in a speech in which he threatened that U.S. aid might be cut off.

"Worst fears come true" — "Critics of the Reagan administration, both here and in the United States, are going to have a field day," said an Honduran newspaper editor. His remarks on Salvador and Guatemala confirmed their worst suspicions.



Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge, left, and President Ronald Reagan embrace after signing an extradition treaty between the two countries Saturday in San Jose. (A.P. wirephoto)

Asked by reporters whether the Reagan administration was now planning to resume military aid to Guatemala, Secretary of State George Shultz said the question had yet to be decided.

Former President Jimmy Carter cut off military supplies to Guatemala in 1977 saying its military government was committing large-scale and systematic abuses

of human rights.

Gen. Ríos Montt, saying that left-wing insurgents in Guatemala must be crushed once and for all, imposed a state of siege on his country last July and suspended all political activity. The state of siege, originally meant for 30 days, has been extended ever since.

But he said in a press statement

after his talks with Mr. Reagan that new laws on the formation of political parties and the conduct of elections would be issued on March 23, the first anniversary of his military coup.

The statement added that the government would allow left-wing parties, including Marxists, to contest the elections.

Gen. Ríos Montt told at a news

conference later that elections would probably be held at the end of next year.

Mr. Reagan told reporters at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, that he was convinced that Gen. Ríos Montt was moving to restore democratic rule.

'Given a bad deal'

Mr. Reagan said during his return to Washington: "I very frankly think that they've been getting a bad deal. You know, he was elected president in 1974. He was never allowed to take office. So, when this particular coup came, the officers who conducted the coup gave him the office he'd been elected to."

Mr. Reagan added: "He is totally dedicated to democracy in Guatemala. They have some very real problems... they brought a lot of information to us. Frankly, I'm inclined to believe that they've been given a hard rap."

Asked if he would meet a request for helicopters and aircraft spare parts, Mr. Reagan said his decision would depend on the conclusion he reached on the information that Gen. Ríos Montt gave him in Honduras.

He then added: "Yes, I would think so."

Law of Sea Conference starts today

MONTEGO BAY, Jamaica (R) — The United Nations Law of the Sea Conference begins its final ceremonial session with the United States and some of its allies refusing to sign the final treaty adopted last April.

The convention, setting rules for the use and exploitation of the oceans and their resources, will not enter into force until 12 months after ratification by 60 states. This is expected to take several years.

More than 150 countries have taken part in the conference since it began in Dec. 1973. Its president, ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore, estimates between 50 and 80 will take the first step towards becoming parties to the convention when it is opened for signature on Friday, the last day of the final session.

The convention, probably the most detailed and complex in diplomatic history, consists of 320 articles and nine annexes.

It provides for a 12-nautical mile territorial sea in which coastal states will exercise sovereignty and a 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone where they will control all natural resources, including fish, gas, oil, and minerals. The treaty is strongly backed by Third World countries, which see it as a step towards a "new international economic order" that will give them a greater share of the world's wealth and technology.

The United States was one of only four countries to vote against the convention when it was endorsed in New York last April 30 by 130 countries. The others that balked, for various reasons, were Israel, Turkey, and Venezuela.

Britain, one of 17 countries that abstained last April, also has objections to the seabed mining articles. It announced on Thursday it would withdraw its signature.

West Germany said on Friday it had postponed a decision, while several other Western European countries have not yet declared their intention.

France and Japan were among industrial countries that voted for the convention and are due to sign this week.

Although the Soviet bloc originally abstained, claiming state mining agencies were denied some of the advantages accorded multinational private consortia, Moscow later said it would become a party to the convention.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vatican denies Pope has profit motive

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican has denied suggestions that Pope John Paul II had proclaimed an exceptional holy year in 1983 in order to attract tourists to Rome and help the financially troubled Holy See. Official spokesman Father Romeo Panciroli told reporters that during the last holy year in 1975, the Vatican had spent more than it earned. He gave no figures. He was referring to Italian press reports which linked the proclamation of the holy year with a Vatican budget statement showing the holy see had a small surplus in 1981 but only after it included contributions normally used for other purposes.

Soviet troops need better entertainment

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet armed forces newspaper has said that troops serving in Afghanistan were dissatisfied with some of the entertainment laid on for them by Moscow, and suggested morale there was low. Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) published a letter signed by 10 officers and soldiers in Afghanistan which said "entertainment was 'especially cherished' in the difficult conditions in which they worked and lived. However, the letter sharply criticised a well-known Moscow group, Blue Guitars, for complaining about facilities and conditions in Afghanistan and refusing to perform in some places."

Botha warns Castro

PRETORIA (R) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha has warned Cuban leader Fidel Castro not to use an alleged patrolling of South African troops at the Mozambique border as a pretext for sending troops to Mozambique. In a statement released here, Mr. Botha said President Castro, chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, had told members Mozambique had said South African troops were concentrating on the countries' joint border.

Spy MacLean said to be gravely ill

MOSCOW (R) — Donald MacLean, the former British diplomat who spied for the Soviet Union, has been taken to a Moscow hospital, a source close to his family said. According to the Sunday editions of two British newspapers, MacLean, now 69, is gravely ill. A woman who answered the phone at his central Moscow apartment, where he has lived for many years since fleeing to the Soviet Union in 1951, told Western correspondents the former spy had been taken to hospital. The woman, whose identity was not made clear, gave no details, beyond saying that she was going to visit him. According to Britain's Sunday Telegraph newspaper, MacLean is dying of cancer and pneumonia.

Police claim killing Spanish extremist

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — The man thought to be the leader of the shadowy Spanish guerrilla group GRAPO, Juan Martin Luna, was shot and killed during a police operation against the extreme left-wing group in central Barcelona Sunday, a police statement said. Martin Luna, 28, escaped from a maximum security prison in Zamora in north-west Spain in Dec. 1979 with four fellow GRAPO members but was the only one still at large, police sources said.

Soviet solid-fuel missile fails test

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union has tested a new solid-fuel intercontinental missile, but its first flight ended in failure, an administration official said Saturday. The official, who requested anonymity, said the missile's first-stage rocket failed shortly after launch in a test about six weeks ago, adding that such failures were not uncommon. The official, who has access to intelligence information, said the development was a sign that the Soviet Union was moving towards solid fuel propulsion, which is more reliable than the liquid fuel systems which power most Soviet missiles.

Shultz to test strained ties with W. Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, leaving Washington Monday on his first mission outside the Western hemisphere since taking office in July, will seek stronger allied ties during a seven-nation tour of Western Europe.

His trip follows major changes last month in the Soviet leadership and comes at a time of sharp disagreements on trade issues that have caused strains between the U.S. and its allies.

The tour formally begins in Bonn on Tuesday and his itinerary then takes him to Brussels, where NATO foreign ministers are due to meet on Thursday and Friday. The Hague, Rome, Paris, Madrid and London. He is expected home on Dec. 19.

Differences over agricultural export subsidies and other problems that formed the main topics at a conference of major trading nations in Geneva last month are expected to be aired again in talks between Mr. Shultz and officials of the European Community in Brussels.

He will be meeting for the first time the leaders of new governments in The Netherlands, Italy and Spain and renewing acquaintances with officials of other countries he has met either at home or at a NATO ministers meeting in Canada two months ago.

In Brussels, the NATO foreign ministers, like their defence colleagues last week, will be meeting for the first time since Yuri Andropov became Soviet communist

party secretary after the death last month of President Leonid Brezhnev.

The 16-nation Western alliance seems to be taking a common wait-and-see stance on relations with the new Kremlin leaders.

Mr. Shultz has made clear there would be no sudden change in American policy, which he described as being based on realism, maintenance of military strength and willingness to work on East-West problems.

He has called for deeds rather than rhetoric from Moscow, citing such areas of East-West disagreement as arms control, Afghanistan, South East Asia and Poland.

While there is general agreement on NATO military policies, American ties with Europe have taken a severe battering in recent months on economic problems which are mainly spin-offs from the worldwide recession.

Deep differences remain on trade and export issues despite a fragile consensus reached at the ministerial meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva.

Other trade-related disputes over European steel exports to the United States and U.S. sanctions against a natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe have been resolved.

But the bitter aftermath of the disputes remains and Mr. Shultz is expected to try to further soothe hurt relations.

Writing of his experiences in his book "Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number" he said he was a victim of Argentine anti-Semitism.

In the television interview he drew parallels between treatment of Jews in Argentine prisons and treatment of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Asked if he were not judging Israelis by higher standards than other peoples he replied: "I don't care if the Argentines are worse. I am going to fight in this country to be better."

In his recently published book "The Longest War" Mr. Timmerman disputed Prime Minister Menachem Begin's contention that Israeli actions in Lebanon were justified because Palestinian commandos used that country as a base of operations for attacks on Israel.

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But here they have to change and be for military solutions, for intolerance against civil liberties, against the rights of Palestinians," he added, according to a transcript released in advance.

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'U.S. Jews will become alienated from Israel'

NEW YORK (R) — Former Argentine newspaper publisher Jacobo Timmerman, a severe critic of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, has said Jews in the United States will become increasingly alienated from Israel.

Mr. Timmerman said in an interview with an American television network recorded in Tel Aviv about 10 days ago this would result from growing awareness by American Jews of contradictions between their attitudes and those of Israel.

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Recipient of artificial heart makes progress

SALT LAKE CITY (R) — Dr. Barney Clark, the first person to receive a permanent artificial heart, was reported Sunday to be making good progress after undergoing an operation to stop air bubbling from his lungs.

"Dr. Clark is doing fine. We expect a quick recovery," said a spokesman at the University of Utah Medical Center, where the one-hour operation was performed.

"The operation was not related to the artificial heart, which performed admirably throughout this second operation," Dr. Chase Peterson told reporters at the medical center.

Doctors had hoped Dr. Clark, a 61-year-old retired Seattle dentist, would be sitting up Saturday and eating food for the first time since he received his polyurethane and aluminum heart on Thursday morning.

Instead, he had to undergo a second operation to trace an air leakage, at first thought to be coming from two hoses which connect his heart to an air compressor.

The heart is worked by air sent

along two slim, 1.8-metre-long hoses from the compressor, which is attached to a mobile power unit. The hoses enter Dr. Clark's body just below his rib cage.

When surgeons, headed by Dr. William Deyges, leader of the heart implant team, opened up Dr. Clark for a second time they found bubbles of air escaping into the chest cavity from "blebs" (little cuts) in the lungs, Dr. Peterson said.

The cuts were sewn up and stapled, he said.

"If the leakage had continued and a lot of air had escaped, this could have led to a swelling of the neck and other organs and the situation could have become serious," he said.

The reason for the "blebs" was the surgeons had to make small incisions in the lungs when they implanted the artificial heart to make way for the hoses, Dr. Peterson said.

Dr. Clark had Saturday been removed from the critical list and diagnosed as being in serious condition, an improvement.

Dissident Afrikaans poet quits Pretoria for Europe

PRETORIA (R) — Dissident Afrikaans poet Breyten Breytenbach, released early from a nine-year jail sentence for plotting to overthrow the government, was reported Sunday to have left South Africa for Europe.

The Afrikaans-language newspaper report said that Breytenbach, sentenced in 1975 and freed on Thursday, was waiting at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport Saturday night for a European-bound flight with his Vietnamese wife Yolande, even before the prison's department confirmed his release.

Breytenbach was living in Paris when he made a clandestine trip here in 1975 which led to his trial and imprisonment.

A prisons spokesman said Sunday that the 44-year-old writer had specifically requested that his plans not be disclosed.

The early release surprised observers in a country where political prisoners generally serve out their sentences to the last day.

But the news was greeted with delight by Afrikaans writers and opposition politicians.

Novelist Etienne Leroux declared it was the greatest day of his life — "as one of Breyten's friends, it's the best news I could have received."

Heleen Suzman, progressive Federal Party spokeswoman on justice, described the decision to free Breytenbach early as marvellous.

Pressure is mounting on the Labour Party, left holding the balance of power after elections last month, to bring the divorce question into its coalition talks with one of the bigger parties, Fine Gael.

And the socialist Workers' Party has said its two deputies in the new parliament will introduce a bill to call a referendum on divorce, banned under the 45-year-old constitution.

It said the bill would take no account of divorce legislation and would simply remove the constitutional ban.

Meanwhile Labour Party Sen. Mary Robinson said her party would insist that the more conservative Fine Gael back a similar divorce referendum bill as a precondition to assistance.

If they are to topple the Fianna

Fail party government of Prime Minister Charles Haughey, Labour and Fine Gael must clinch an alliance by Dec. 14, when the new parliament meets to choose a prime minister.

Sen. Robinson suggested there would be an opportunity to hold a divorce referendum if Fine Gael honoured its promise to hold another such vote by March.

Ironically, that referendum would offer the electorate a chance to fix as part of the constitution an existing legislative ban on abortion.

Garret FitzGerald, who led Fine Gael to its biggest-ever election success last month, is known to favour liberalising the constitution, strongly influenced by the Catholic church when drawn up in 1977.

It originally included a clause stating the Catholic church had a special position in the state. This was removed after a referendum in 1973.

The last opinion poll on divorce, in 1980, indicated 42 per cent of voters favoured its introduction. One, nine years earlier showed only 21 per cent had this view.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠95 ♠A105 ♠Q642 ♠Q983

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—You fulfilled your obligation with your first response. Now you should retire gracefully from the auction. There is no reason why you should give a false preference to two spades — hearts should be as good a contract, or better, than spades. Pass.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A ♠J7 ♠KJ92 ♠AKJ1073

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠

1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Don't give up on slam too quickly. Even though partner couldn't open the bidding, he did come in freely at the two-level. Almost any hand where he has a heart control could easily produce a slam. Start your probe with a cue-bid of three spades. When you later bid five diamonds, partner should get the message of what you need for slam.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q105 ♠AQ6 ♠A873 ♠K97

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Thus far, you have only told partner that you have a minimum opening bid. In fact, you are maximum for your bidding to this point, with a wealth of controls, and a fit for both of his suits. The only way to advise partner of how much your hand has improved is by taking a jump preference to three aces.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ95 ♠KQJ82 ♠8763

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—From a discouraging start, the auction has taken a turn for the better. Normally, we would suggest that you raise clubs now to establish a fit, but that could land you in the wrong contract — three no trump or four hearts might be the only makeable game. We suggest a bid of two spades. Depending on partner's rebid, you can then raise clubs. That shows the three-suited nature of your hand, and will allow partner to proceed naturally.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠95 ♠KQ7 ♠AJ3 ♠Q1087

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Dble ?

What action do you take?

A.—Many players would now make the mistake of bidding three no trump. But ask yourself why didn't partner make that bid? The only explanation is that he has doubt about a no trump contract because his spade holding is inadequate. Since your spades cannot allay those doubts, we suggest you show your heart support. Partner will know that you have only three hearts, but the 4-3 fit could play extremely well.

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J1074 ♠K983 ♠A6 ♠AK8

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ Dble 2 ♠ Dble

What action do you take?

A.—Don't hit the panic button just because you have a three-card club suit. Partner has the opportunity to introduce a major suit over the double of one club, but did not do so. Therefore, you cannot expect to have a better fit than you do in clubs. Since partner probably has five clubs for his raise, you should expect to make two clubs even against a trump stack.

Q.7—Both vulnerable, as South you hold: